Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.3 JUNE
$1.50
SEGA
RIPPED FROM THE PAGES OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!
KNUCKLES
The Dark Legi
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
#3 OF A THREE ISSUE MINI-SERIES
PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • GALAN
TAYLOR • PEPOY • BOLLERS
SPAZ/PENDERS

KNUCKLES™

The Dark Legion

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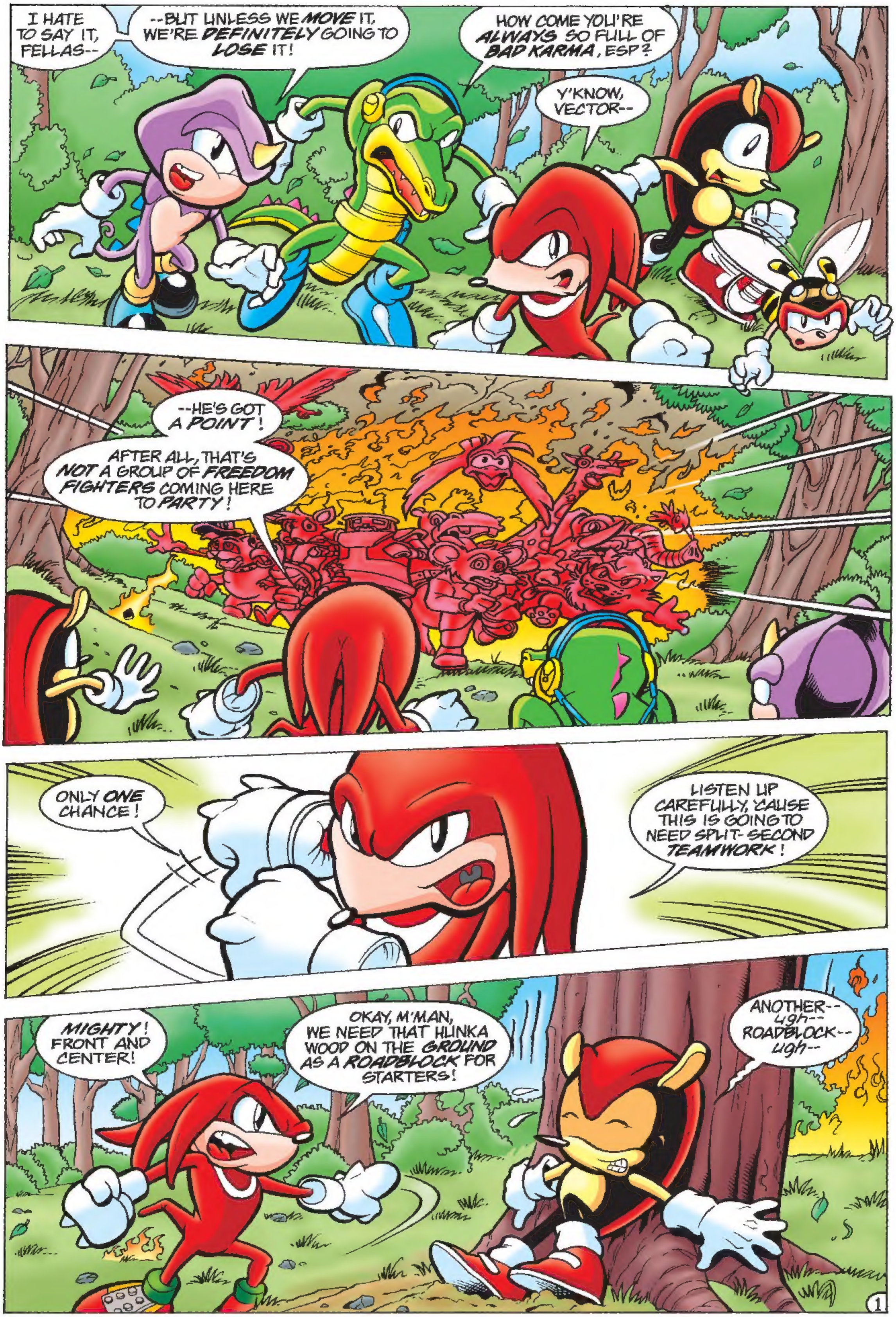
Book Three

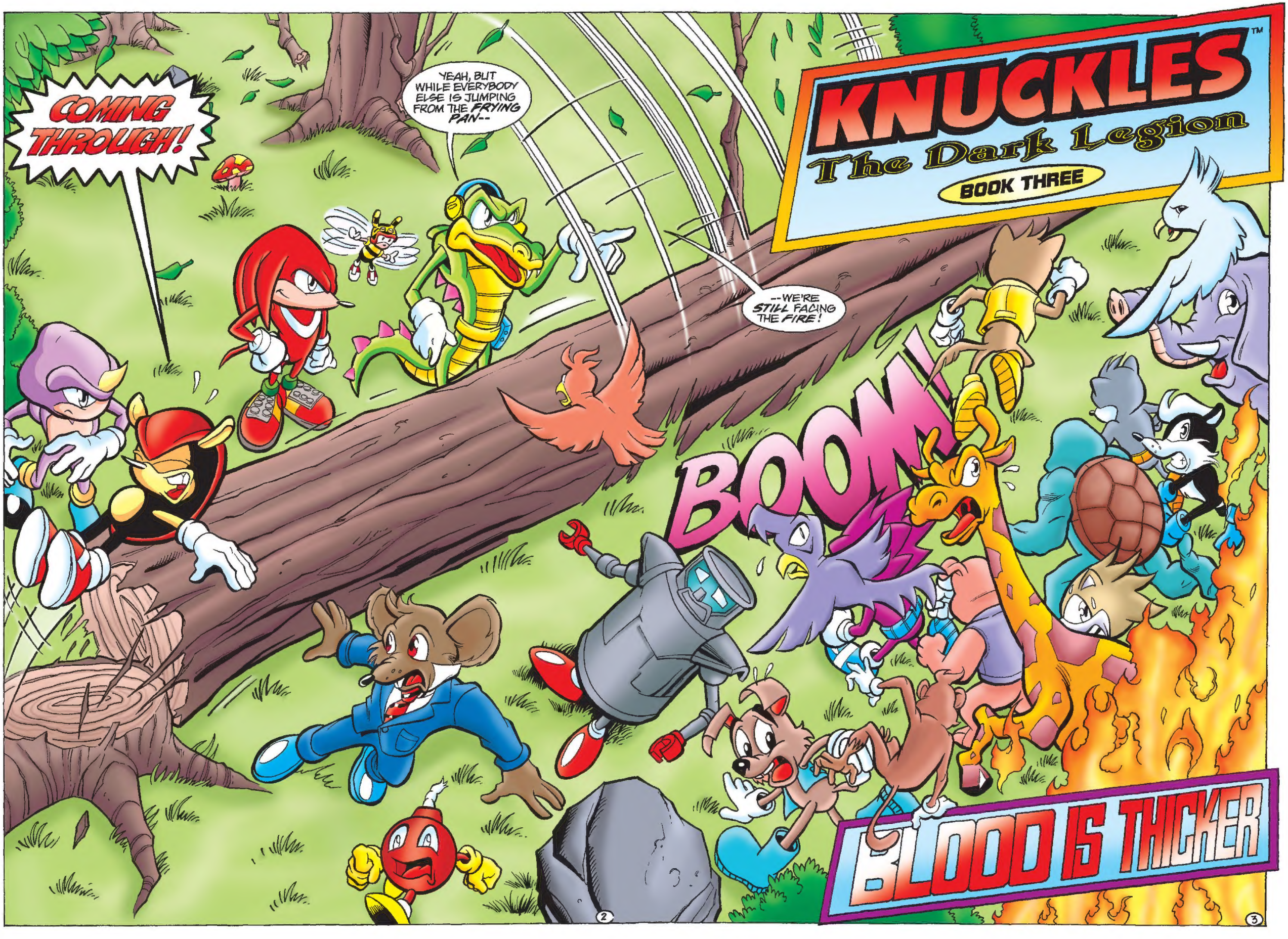
WHAT DOES ONE DO WHEN FACED WITH AN ENEMY WHOSE RESOURCES SEEM LIMITLESS, WHOSE NUMBERS ARE MANY, AND WHOSE GOAL IS TOTAL VICTORY NO MATTER "WHAT" THE COST?

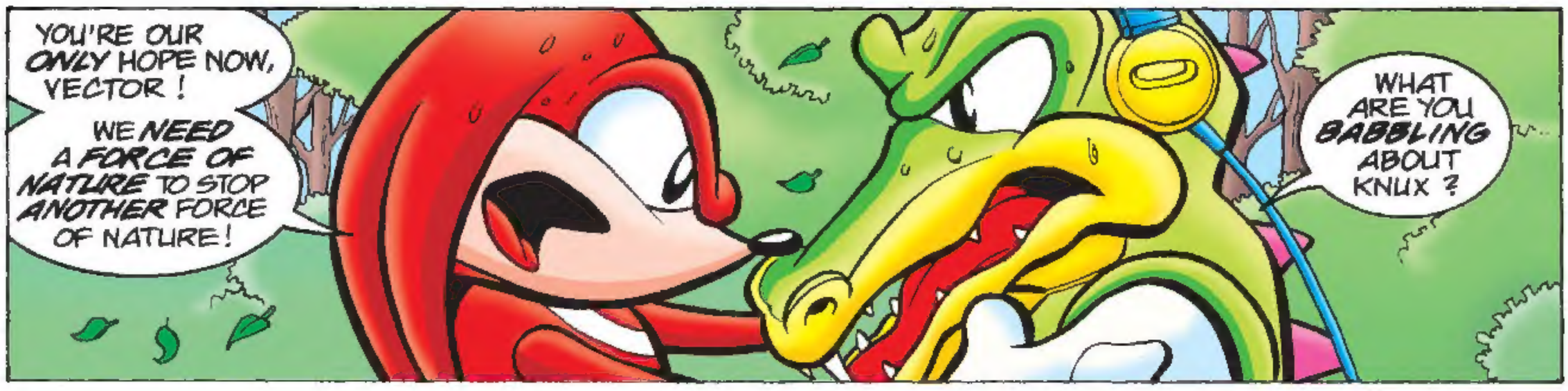
IF YOU'RE AN ECHIDNA NAMED KNUCKLES, WHOSE EXPERIENCE IS RELATIVELY LIMITED, WHOSE FRIENDS ARE A SELECT FEW AND WHOSE SWORN DUTY IS TO PROTECT THE SOARING PARADISE HE LIVES ON, YOU GET READY TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT. YOU GIVE IT YOUR ALL IN ORDER TO PROTECT THAT WHICH YOU'VE BEEN IN ENTRUSTED WITH... EVEN IF IT MEANS YOUR VERY LIFE.

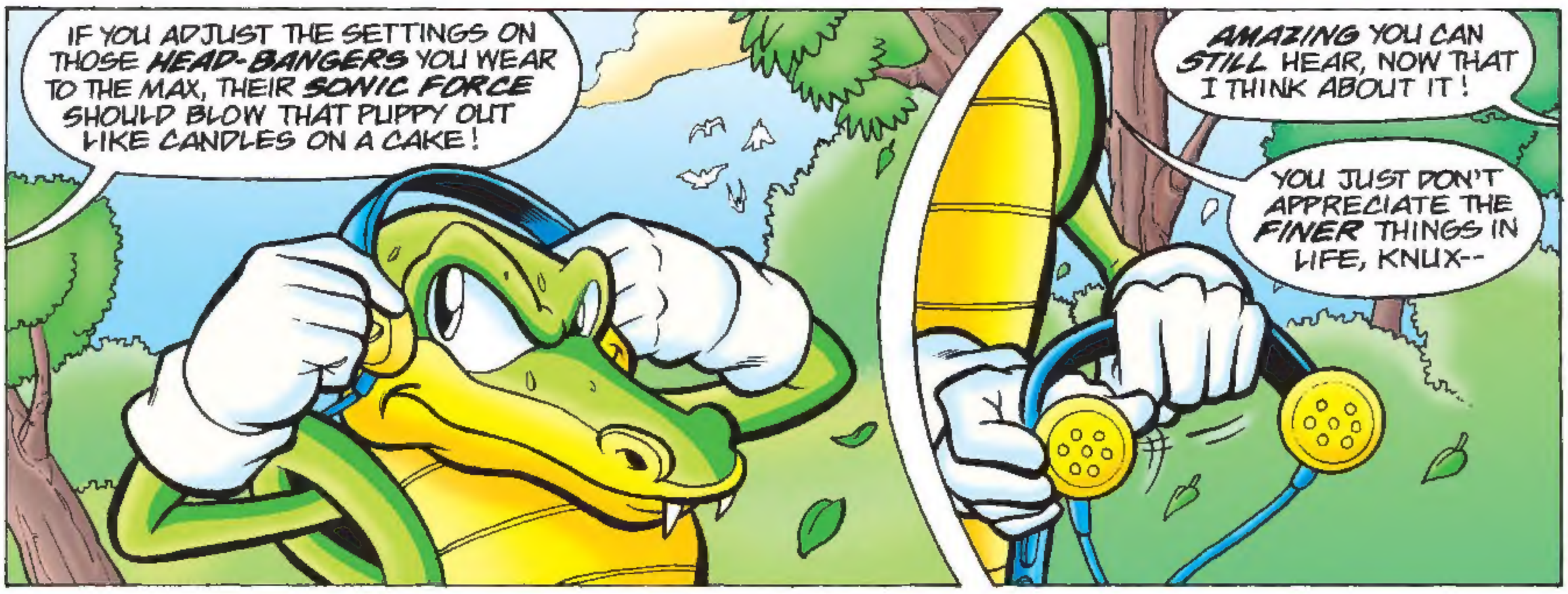
YOU ALSO LEARN FROM THE LESSONS YOU'VE BEEN TAUGHT, EMPLOYING THE WEAPONS OF ONE'S INTELLIGENCE AGAINST THEIRS OF BRUTE FORCE. THE CONVICTION OF ONE'S BELIEFS AND THE COURAGE AGAINST THEIRS OF BLIND OBEDIENCE AND CRUELTY AND THE EMBODIMENT OF ONE'S HONOR AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE NONE.

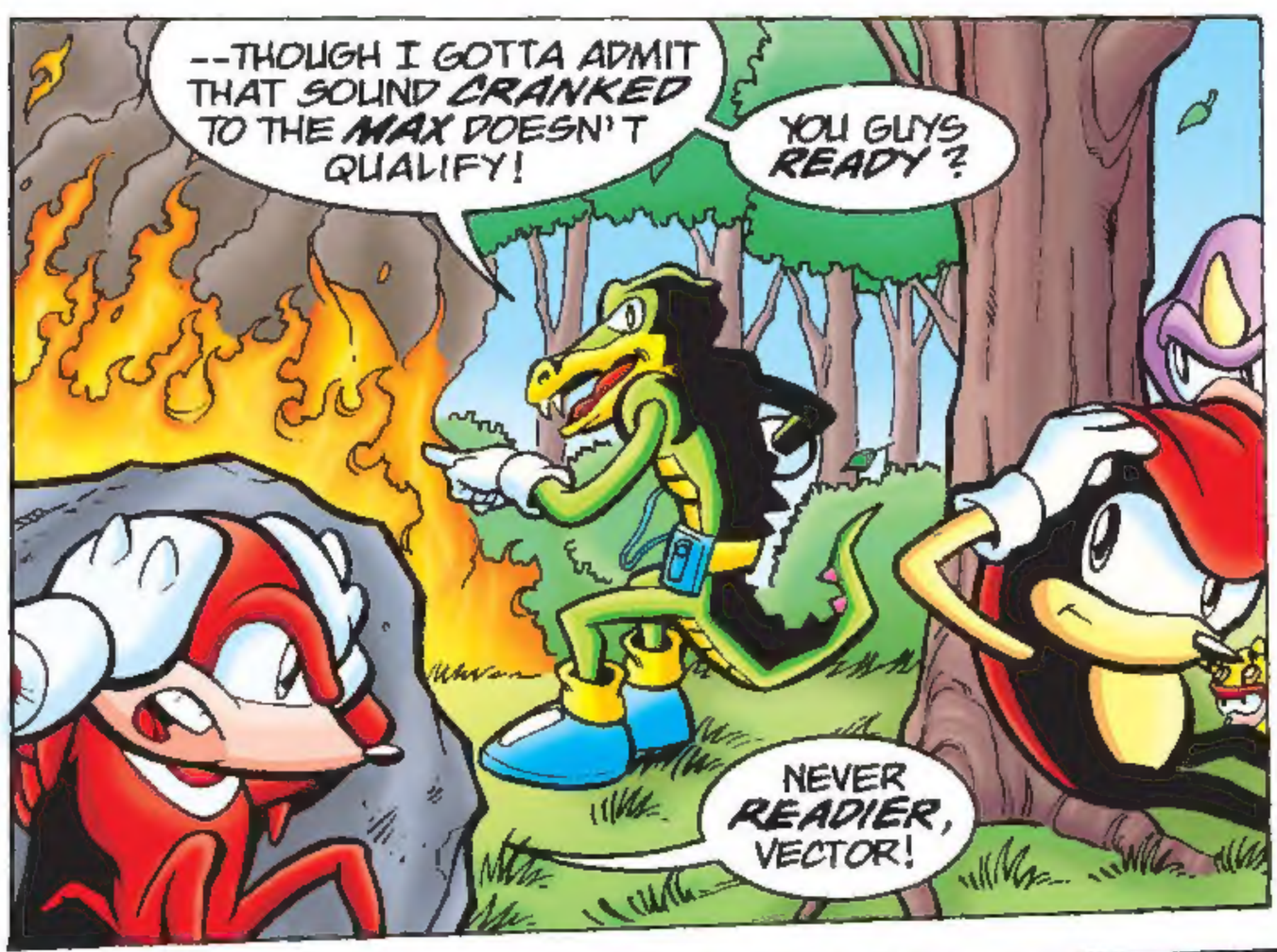
IF YOU'RE AN ECHIDNA NAMED KNUCKLES, ABOVE ALL ELSE, YOU HAVE FAITH THAT YOU'VE BEEN SHOWN THE RIGHT PATH IN LIFE, AND IF YOU'RE TRUE TO YOURSELF, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR BUT FEAR ITSELF...

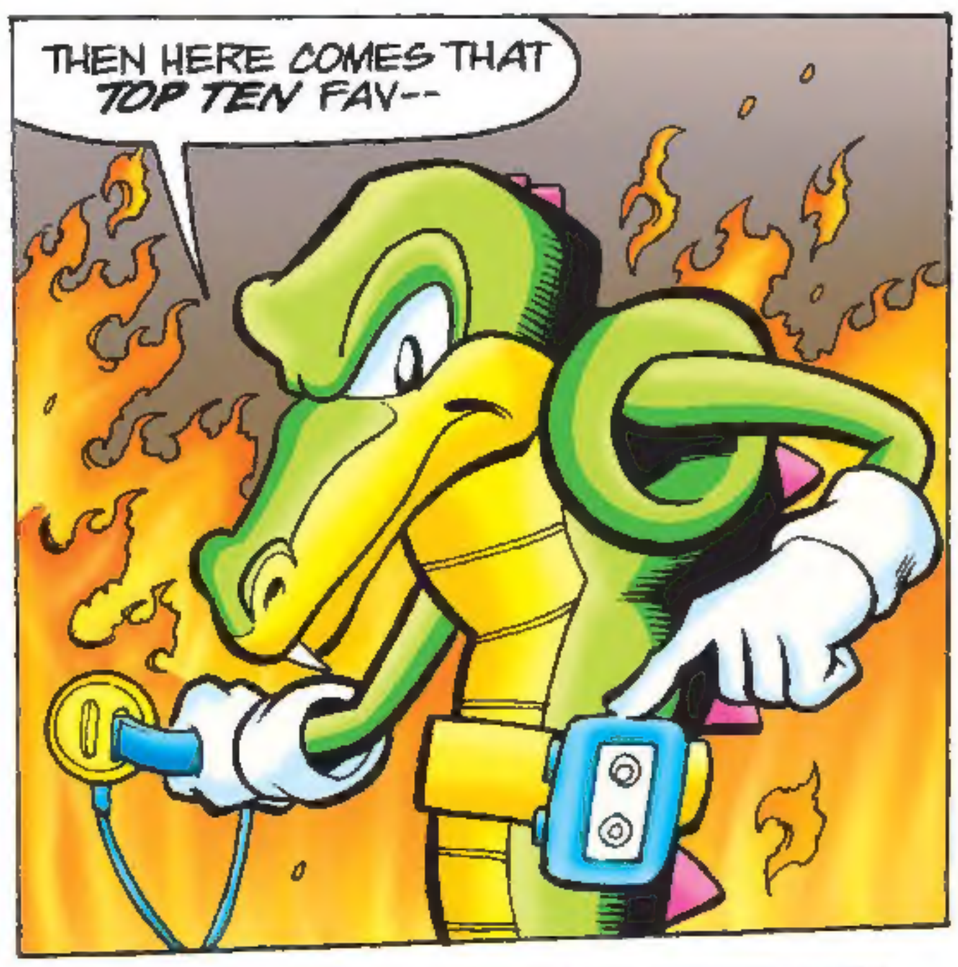

I HATE TO SAY IT, FELLAS--
--BUT UNLESS WE MOVE IT, WE'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO LOSE IT!
HOW COME YOU'RE ALWAYS SO FULL OF BAD KARMA, ESP?
Y'KNOW, VECTOR--
--HE'S GOT A POINT!
AFTER ALL, THAT'S NOT A GROUP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS COMING HERE TO PARTY!
ONLY ONE CHANCE!
LISTEN UP CAREFULLY, CAUSE THIS IS GOING TO NEED SPLIT-SECOND TEAMWORK!
MIGHTY! FRONT AND CENTER!
OKAY, M'MAN, WE NEED THAT HUNKA WOOD ON THE GROUND AS A ROADBLOCK FOR STARTERS!
ANOTHER-- ugh-- ROADBLOCK-- ugh--

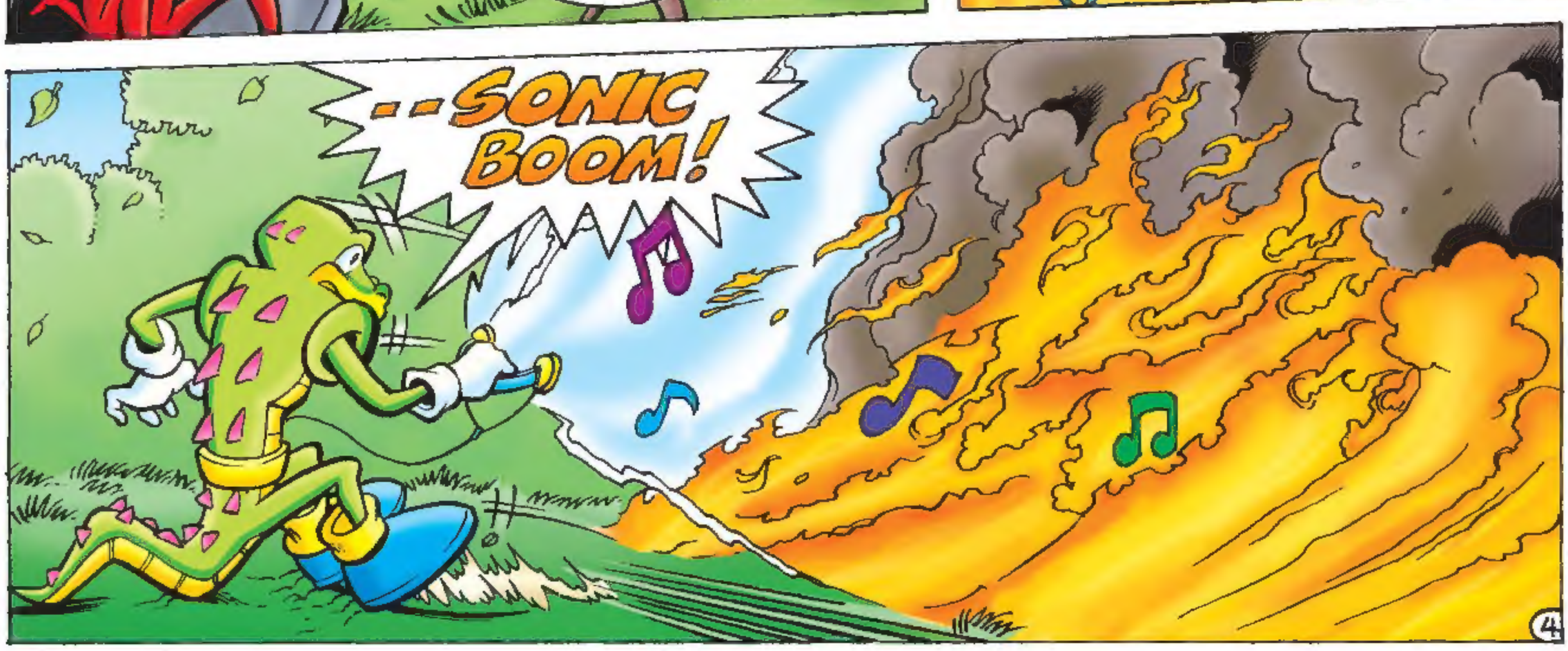

KNUCKLES™
The Dark Legion
BOOK THREE
COMING THROUGH!
YEAH, BUT WHILE EVERYBODY ELSE IS JUMPING FROM THE FRYING PAN--
--WE'RE STILL FACING THE FIRE!
BOOM
BLOOD IS THICKER
2
3

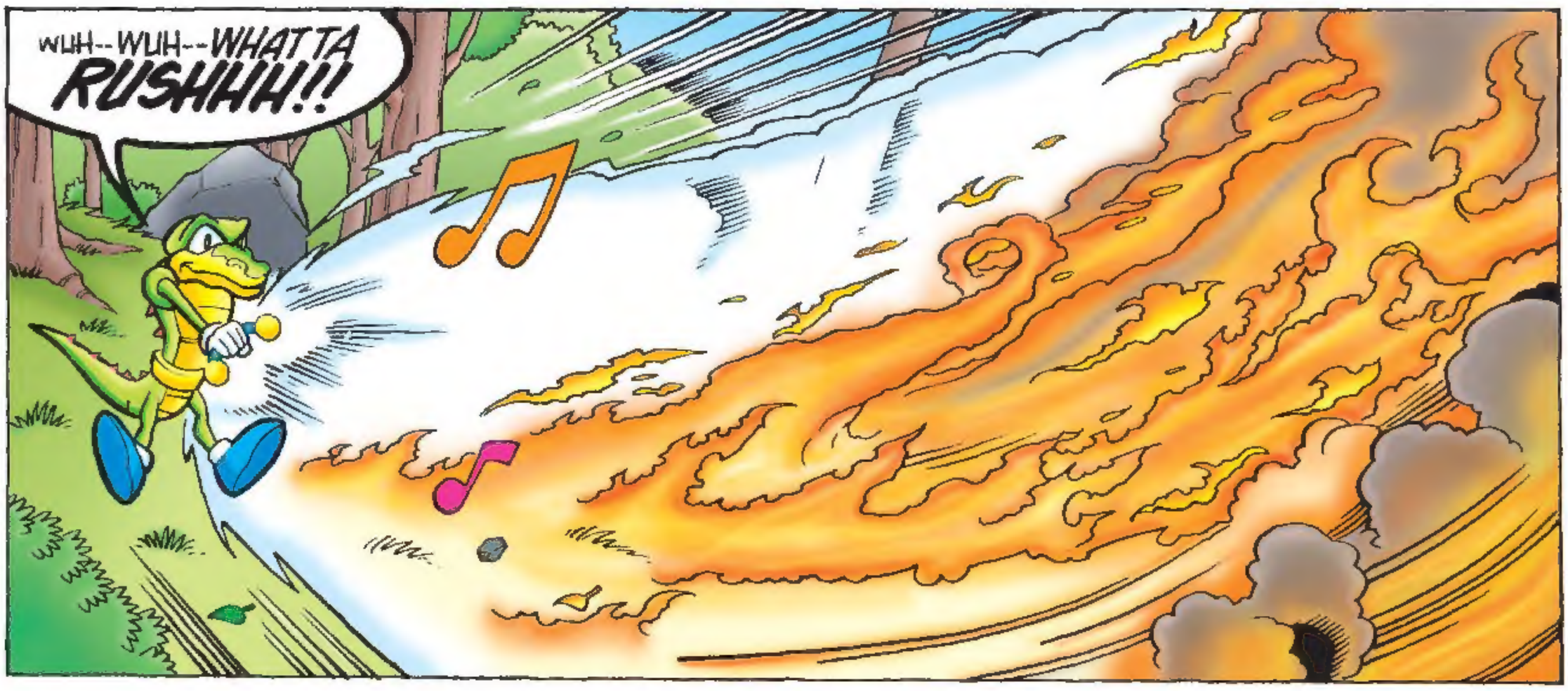

YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE NOW, VECTOR!
WE NEED A FORCE OF NATURE TO STOP ANOTHER FORCE OF NATURE!
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT KNUX?

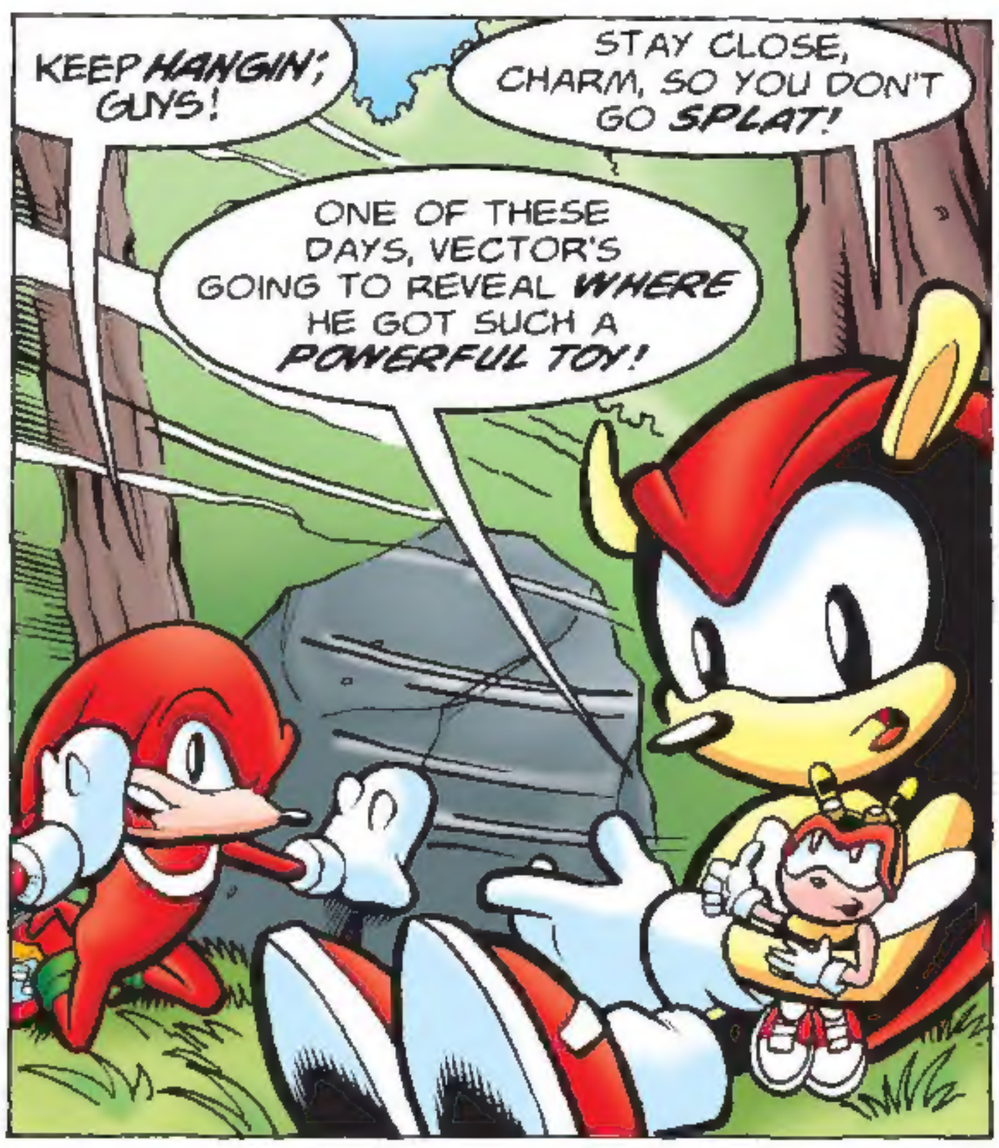

IF YOU ADJUST THE SETTINGS ON THOSE HEAD-BANGERS YOU WEAR TO THE MAX, THEIR SONIC FORCE SHOULD BLOW THAT PUPPY OUT LIKE CANDLES ON A CAKE!
AMAZING YOU CAN STILL HEAR, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT!
YOU JUST DON'T APPRECIATE THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE, KNUX--

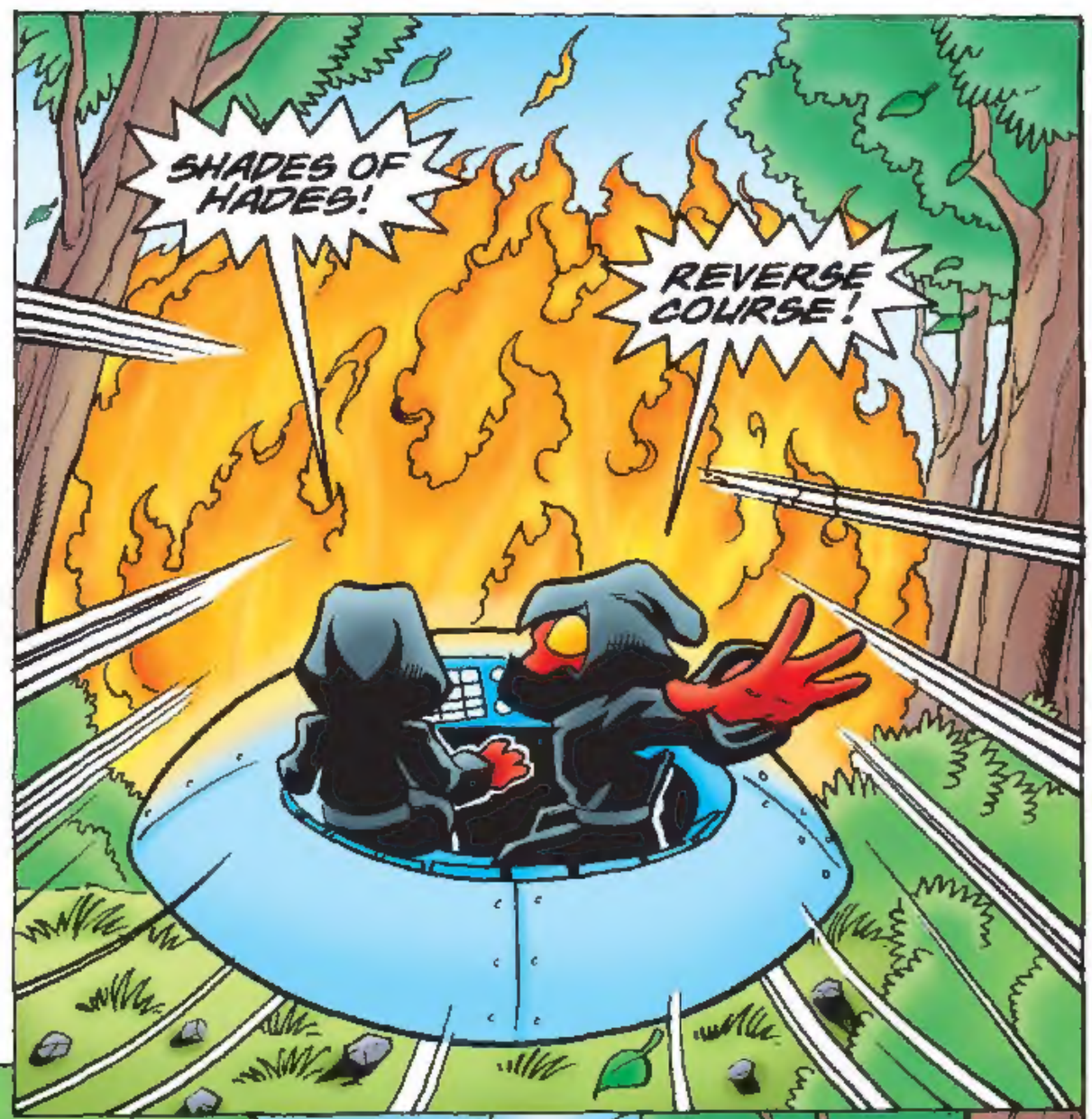

--THOUGH I GOTTA ADMIT THAT SOUND CRANKED TO THE MAX DOESN'T QUALIFY!
YOU GUYS READY?
NEVER READIER, VECTOR!

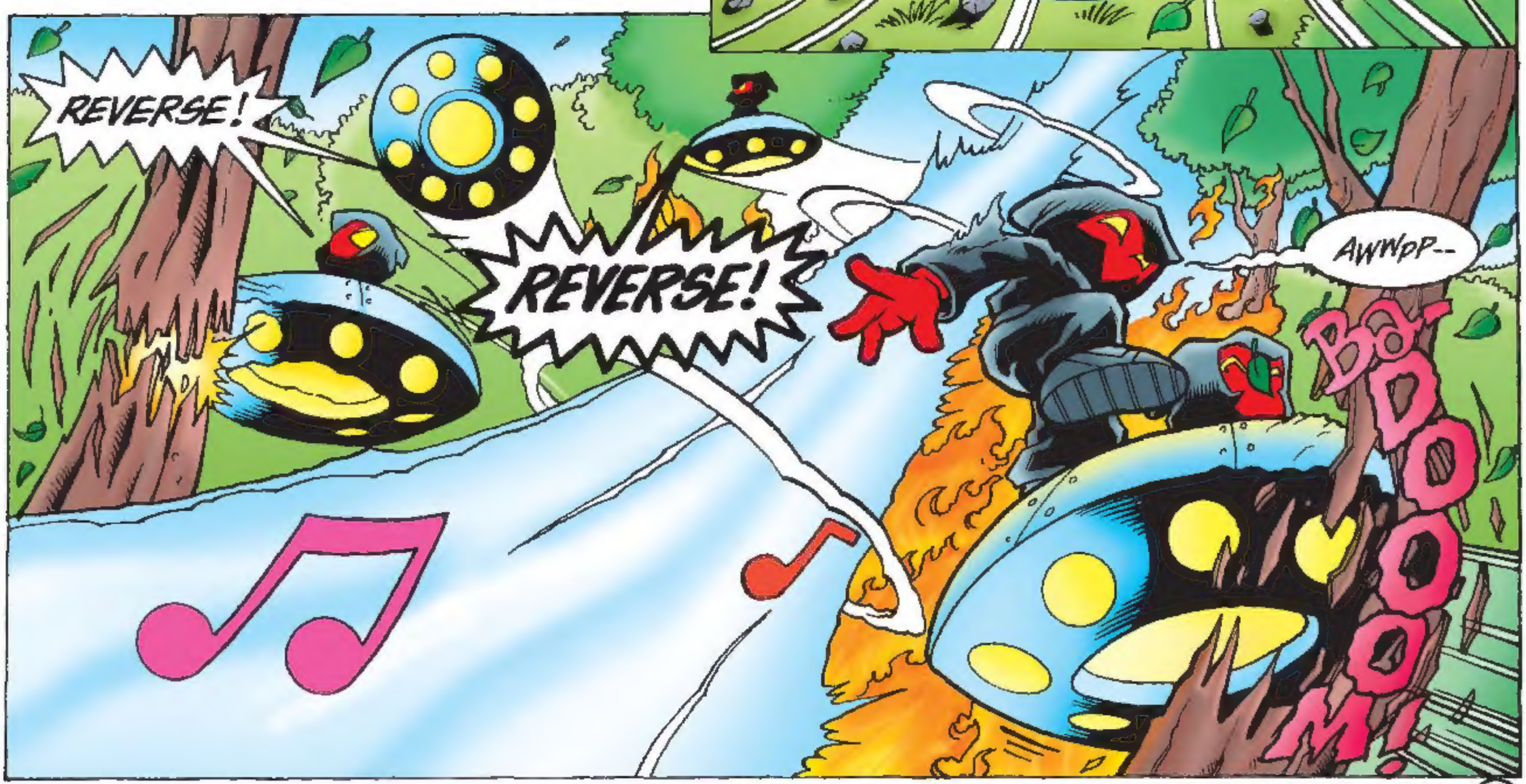

THEN HERE COMES THAT TOP TEN FAV--


--SONIC BOOM!

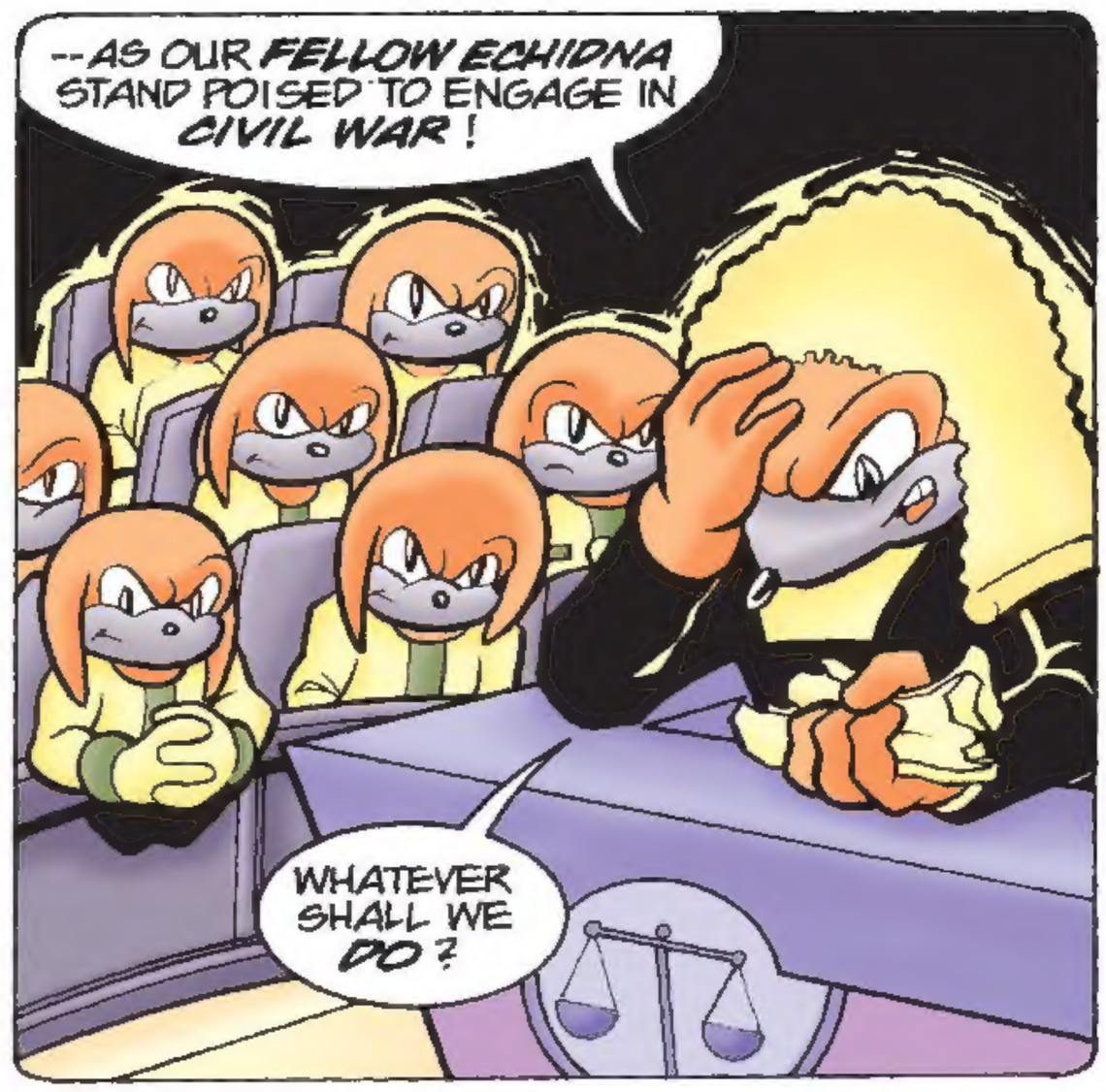

WUH--WUH--WHATTA RUSHHH!!!

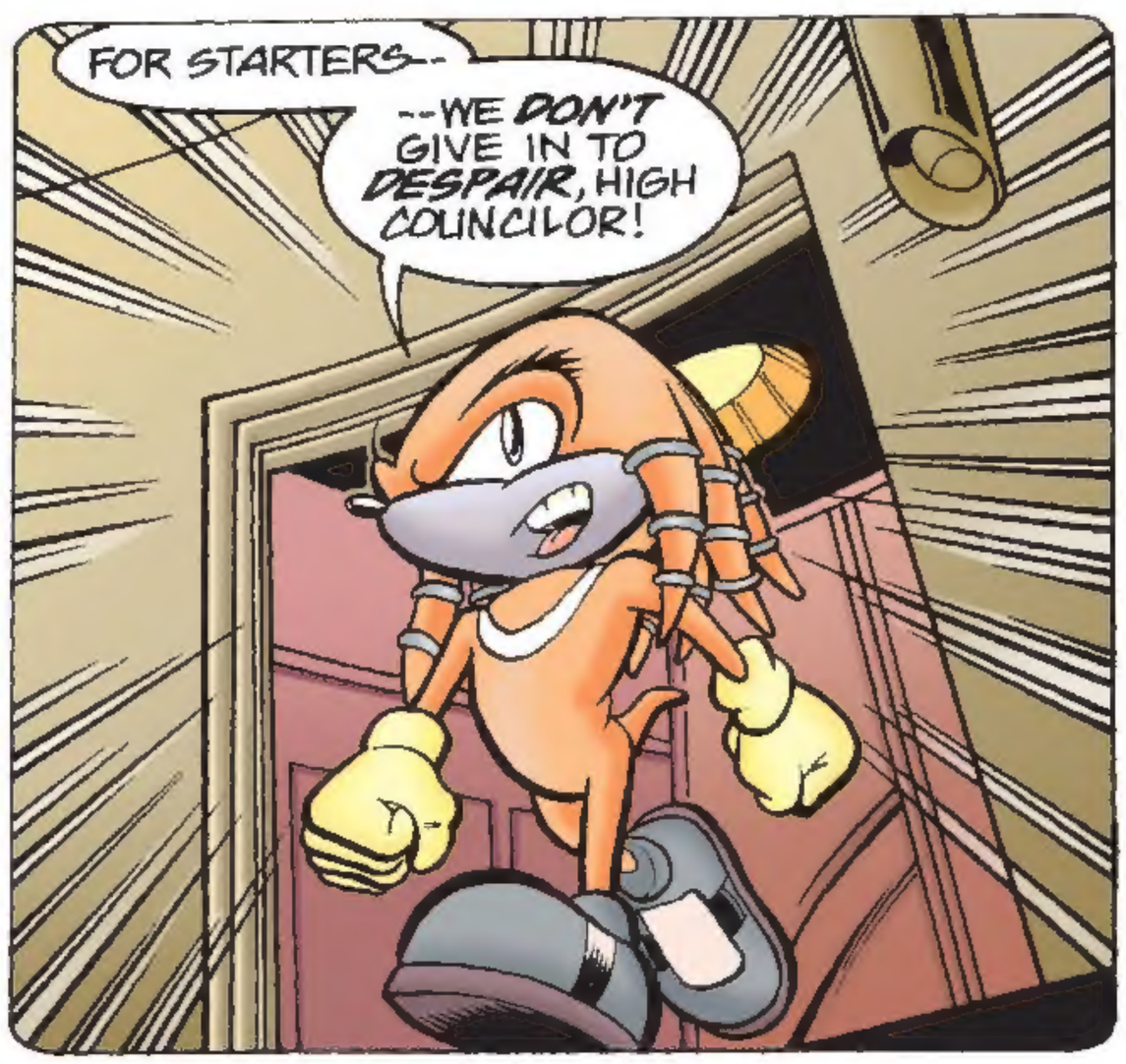

KEEP HANGIN', GUYS!
STAY CLOSE, CHARM, SO YOU DON'T GO SPLAT!
ONE OF THESE DAYS, VECTOR'S GOING TO REVEAL WHERE HE GOT SUCH A POWERFUL TOY!

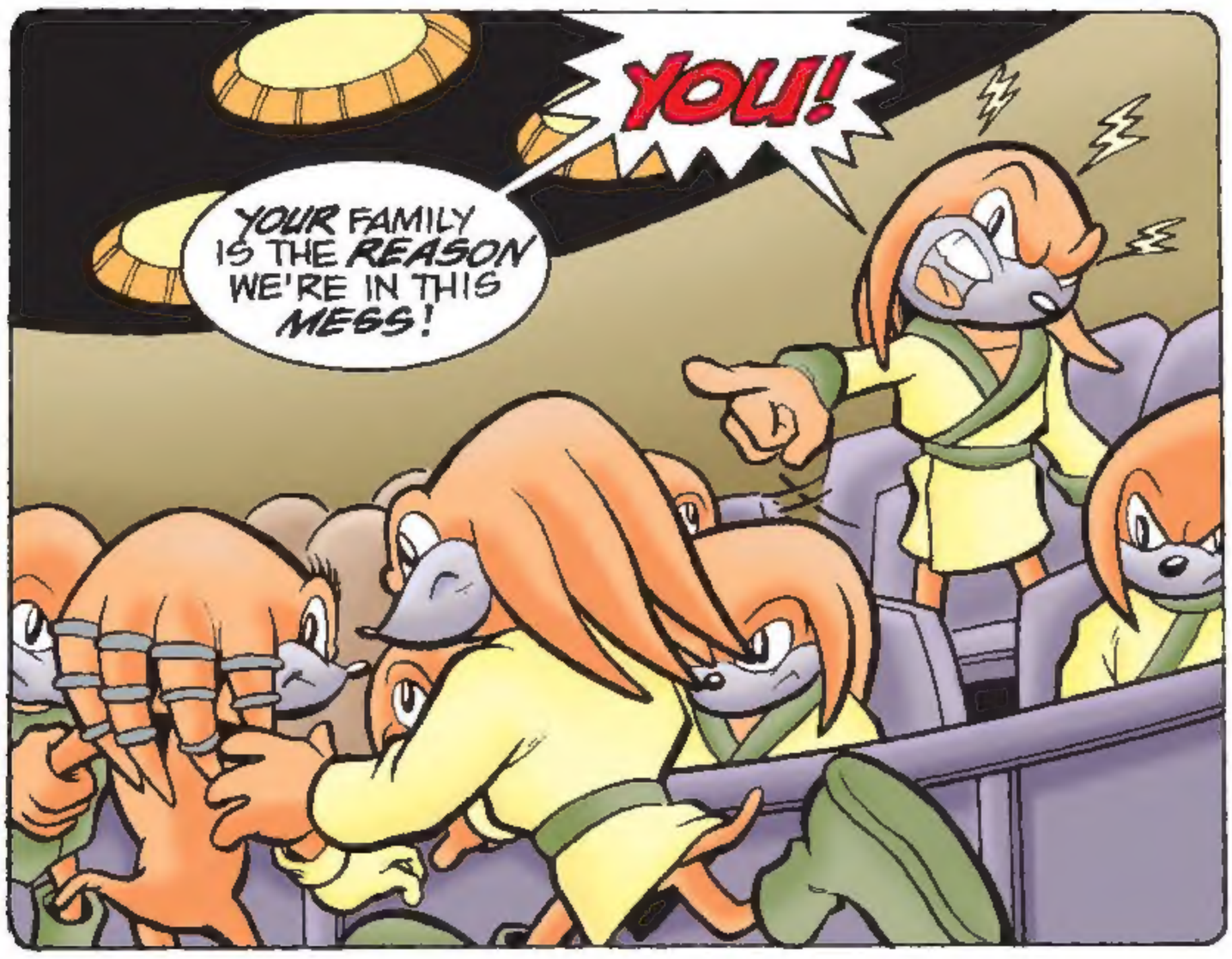

SHADES OF HADES!
REVERSE COURSE!


REVERSE!
REVERSE!
AWWPP--
BOOOOOM!

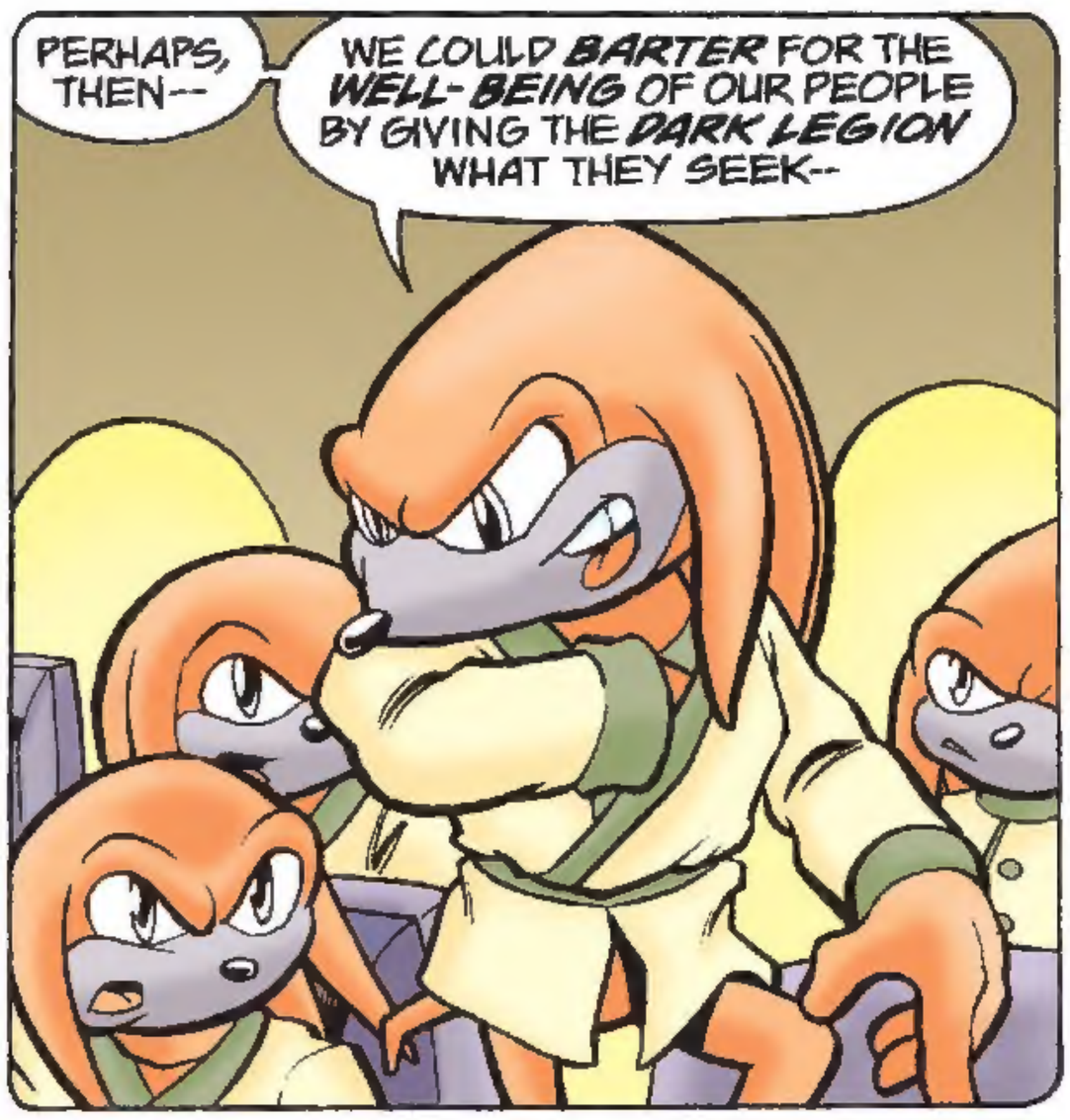
"FELLOW COUNCIL MEMBERS, THIS NIGHT WE FACE OUR GRAVEST CRISIS YET--"
HALL OF SCIENCE


--AS OUR FELLOW ECHIDNA STAND POISED TO ENGAGE IN CIVIL WAR!
WHATEVER SHALL WE DO?

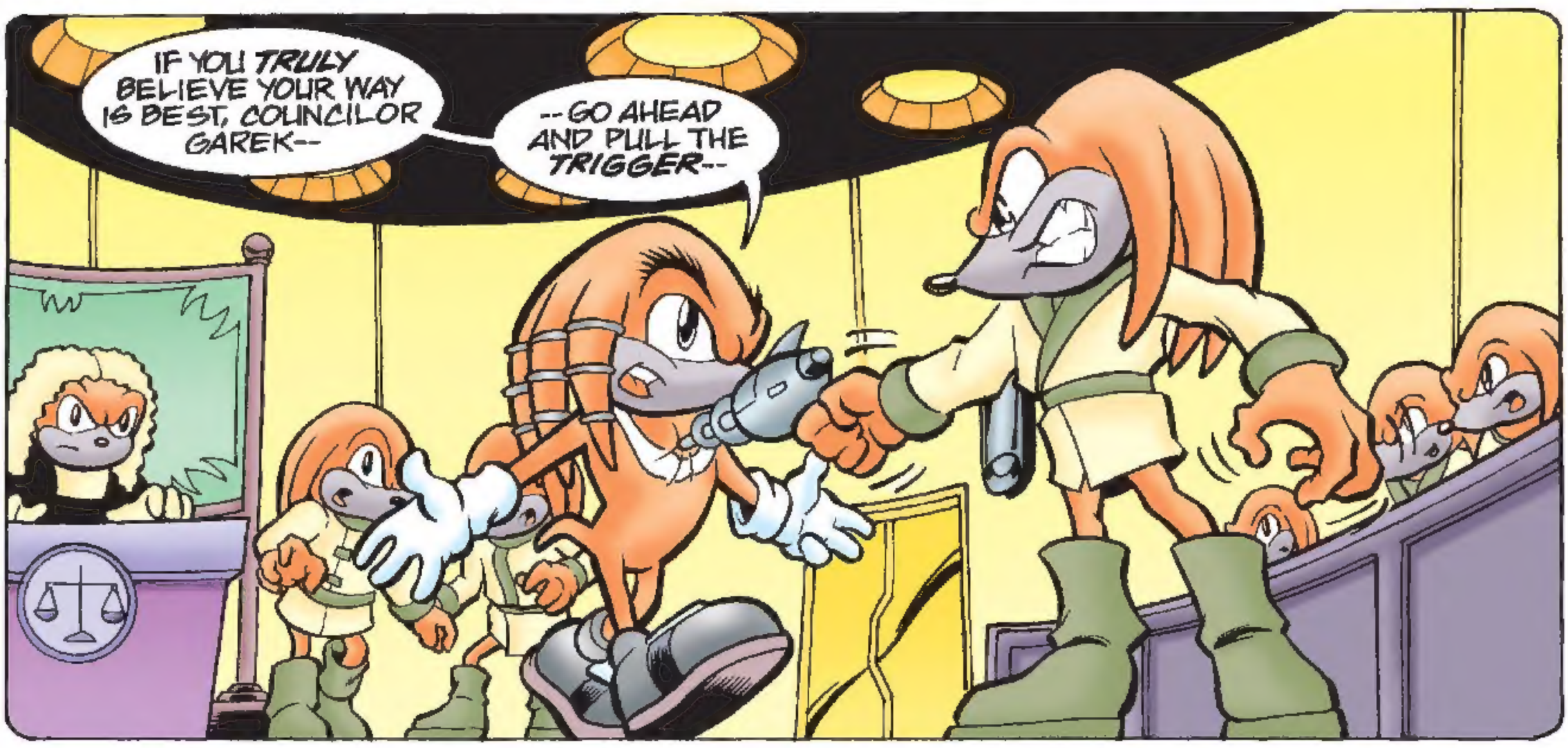

FOR STARTERS--
--WE DON'T GIVE IN TO DESPAIR, HIGH COUNCILOR!


YOU!
YOUR FAMILY IS THE REASON WE'RE IN THIS MESS!

MY FAMILY IS ALSO THE REASON OUR PEOPLE STILL SURVIVE!
IS THAT A FACT?


PERHAPS, THEN--
WE COULD BARTER FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OUR PEOPLE BY GIVING THE DARK LEGION WHAT THEY SEEK--

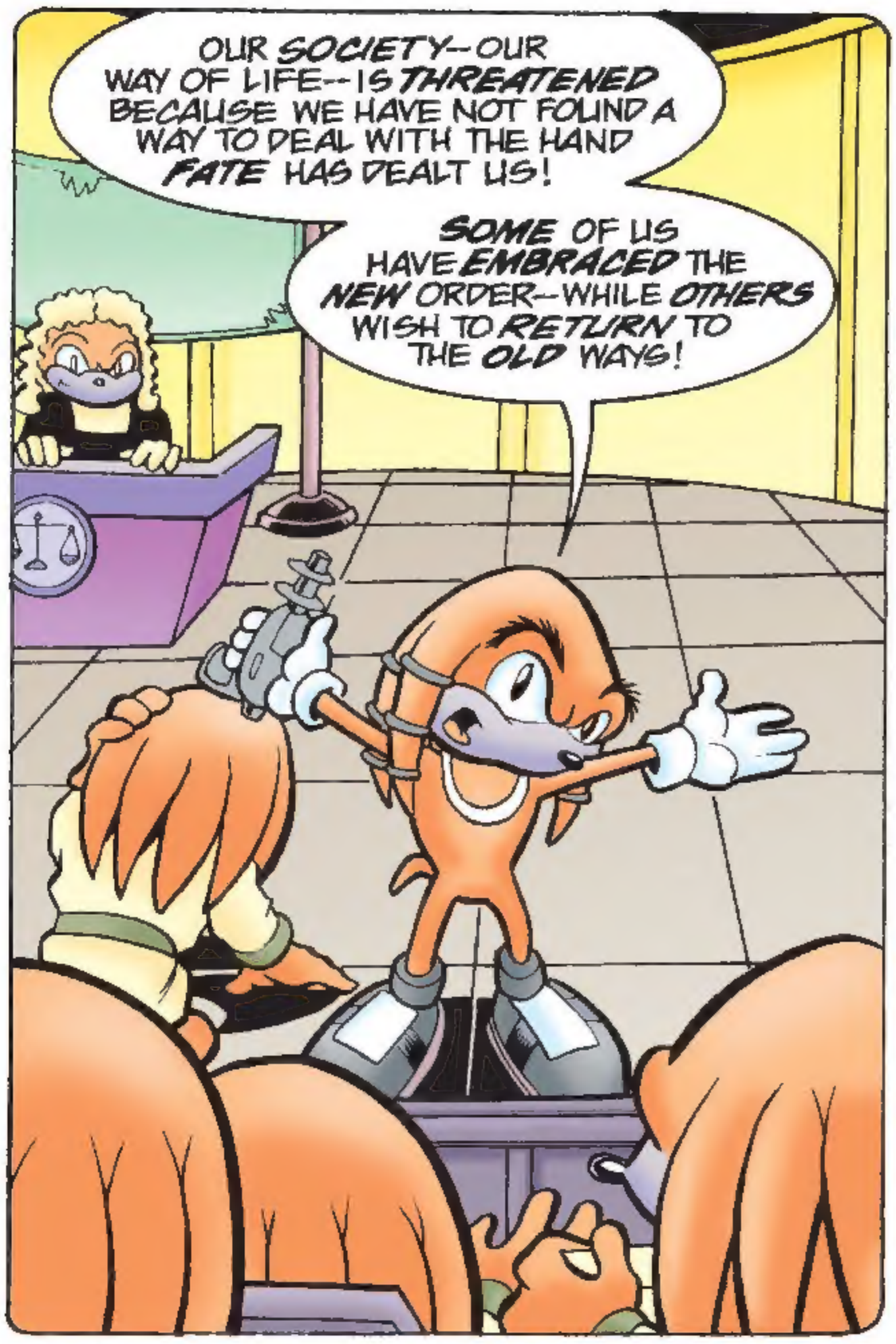
--YOUR HEAD--
--ON A PLATTER, NO LESS!


IF YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOUR WAY IS BEST, COUNCILOR GAREK--
--GO AHEAD AND PULL THE TRIGGER--

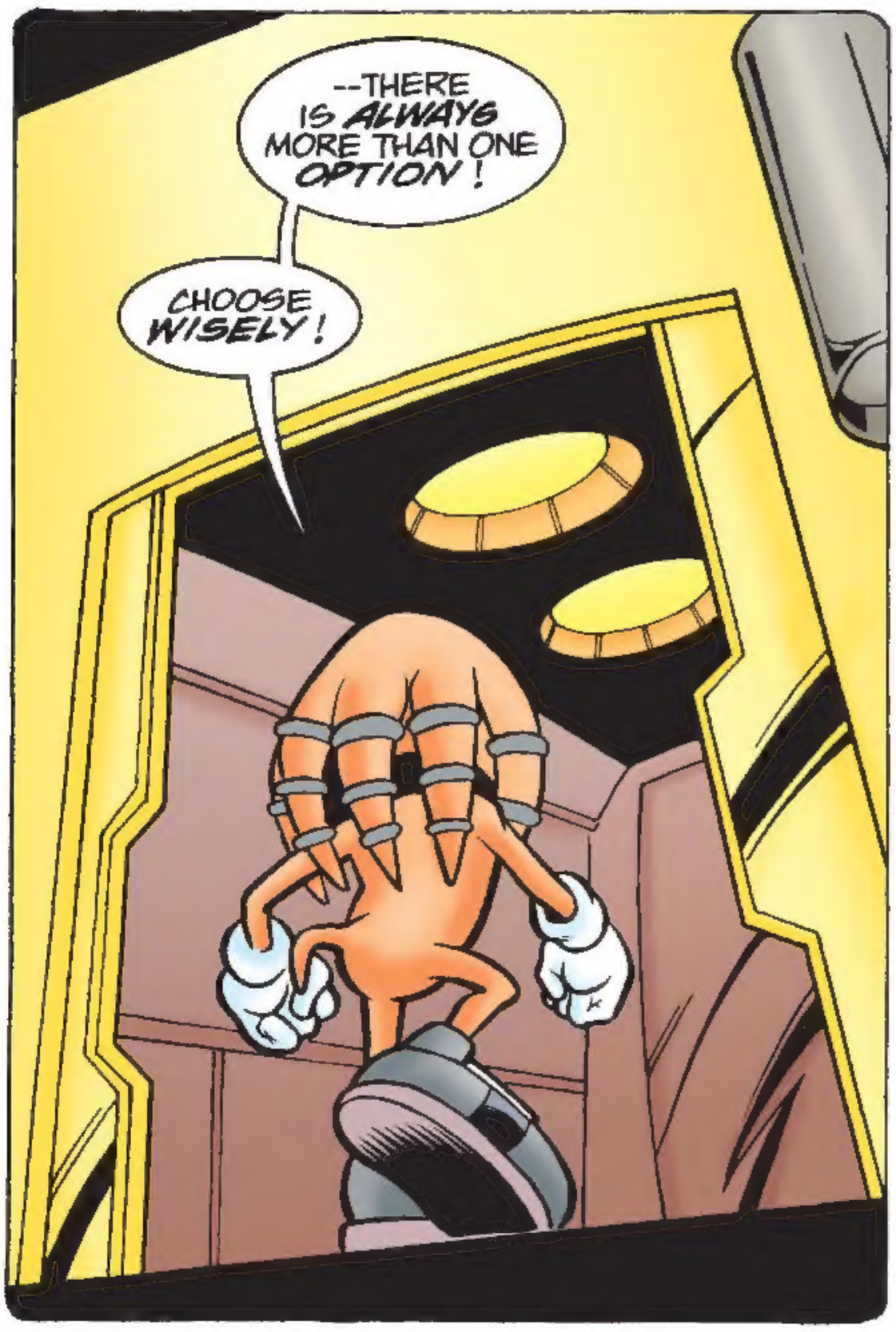
--FOR I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE FOR YOU AND YOURS!

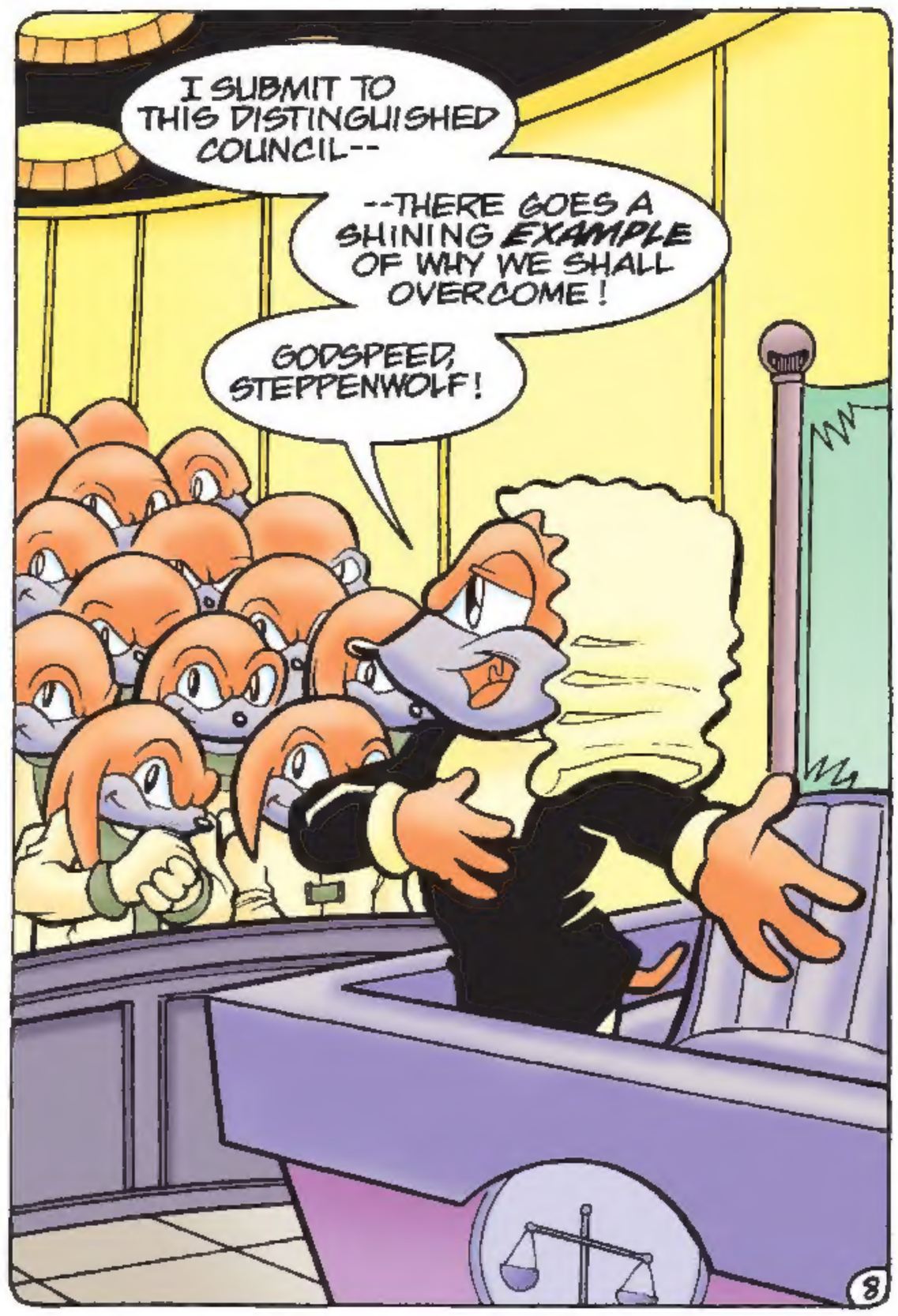
NOOOO...

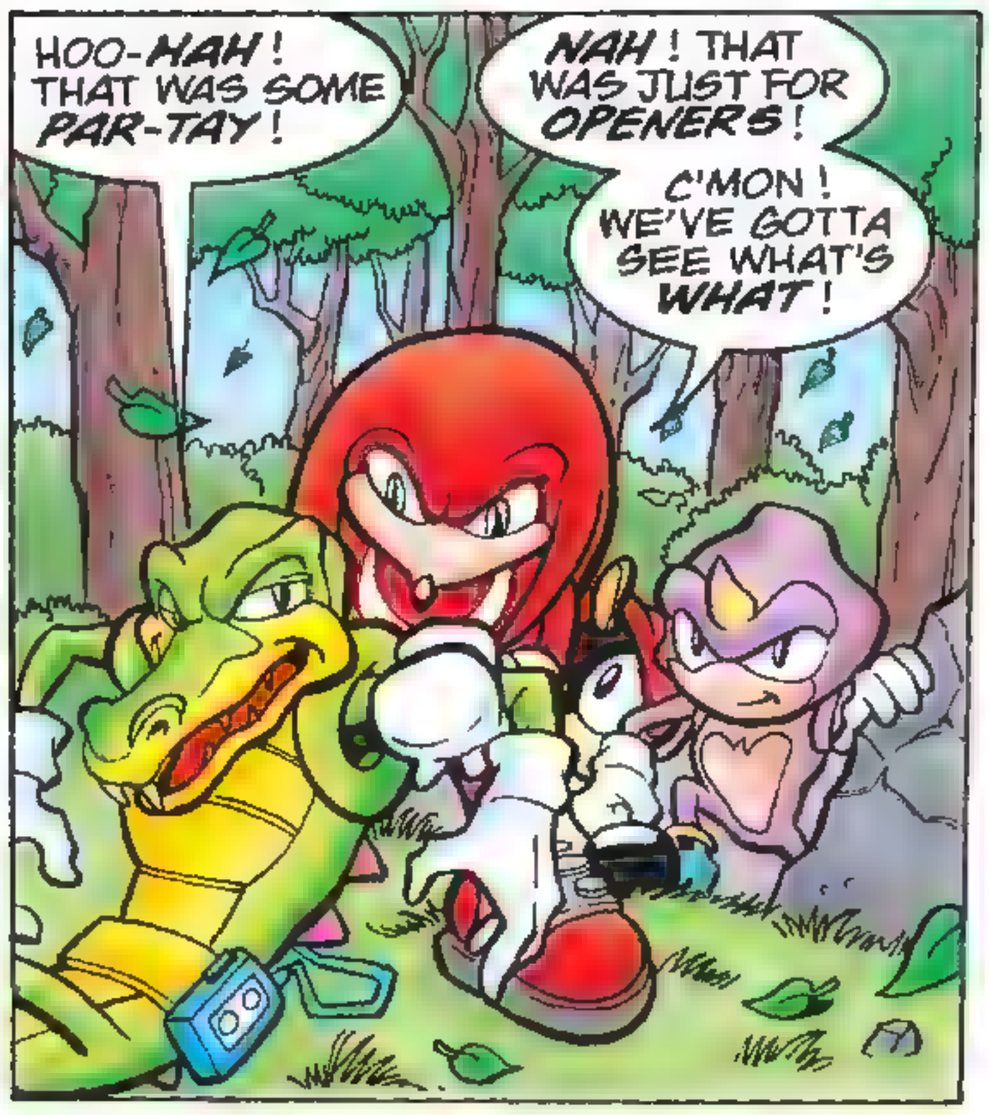
I'M NOT WORTHY!
IF YOU'RE NOT, THEN WHO IS?

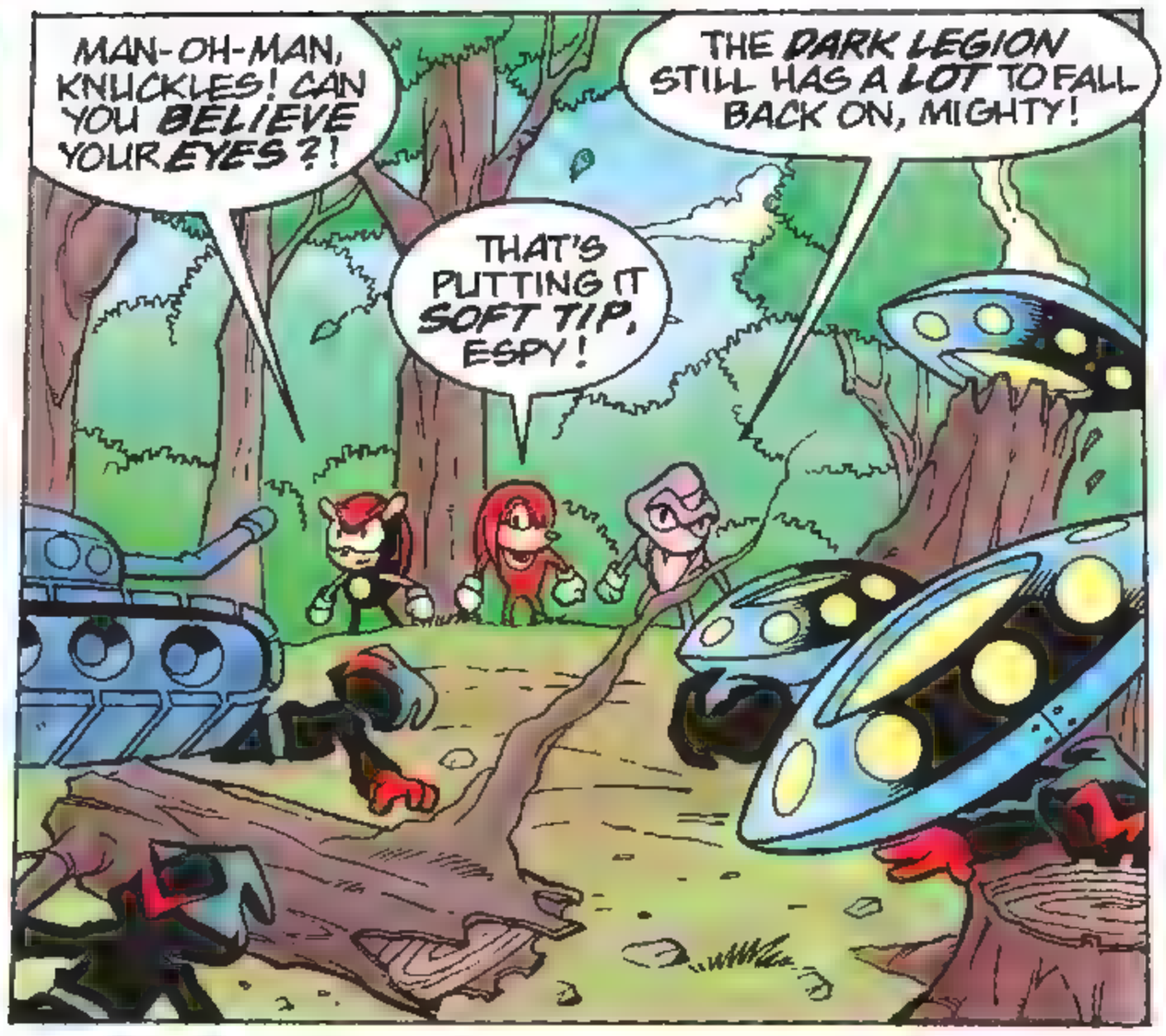

OUR SOCIETY--OUR WAY OF LIFE--IS THREATENED BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT FOUND A WAY TO DEAL WITH THE HAND FATE HAS DEALT US!
SOME OF US HAVE EMBRACED THE NEW ORDER--WHILE OTHERS WISH TO RETURN TO THE OLD WAYS!

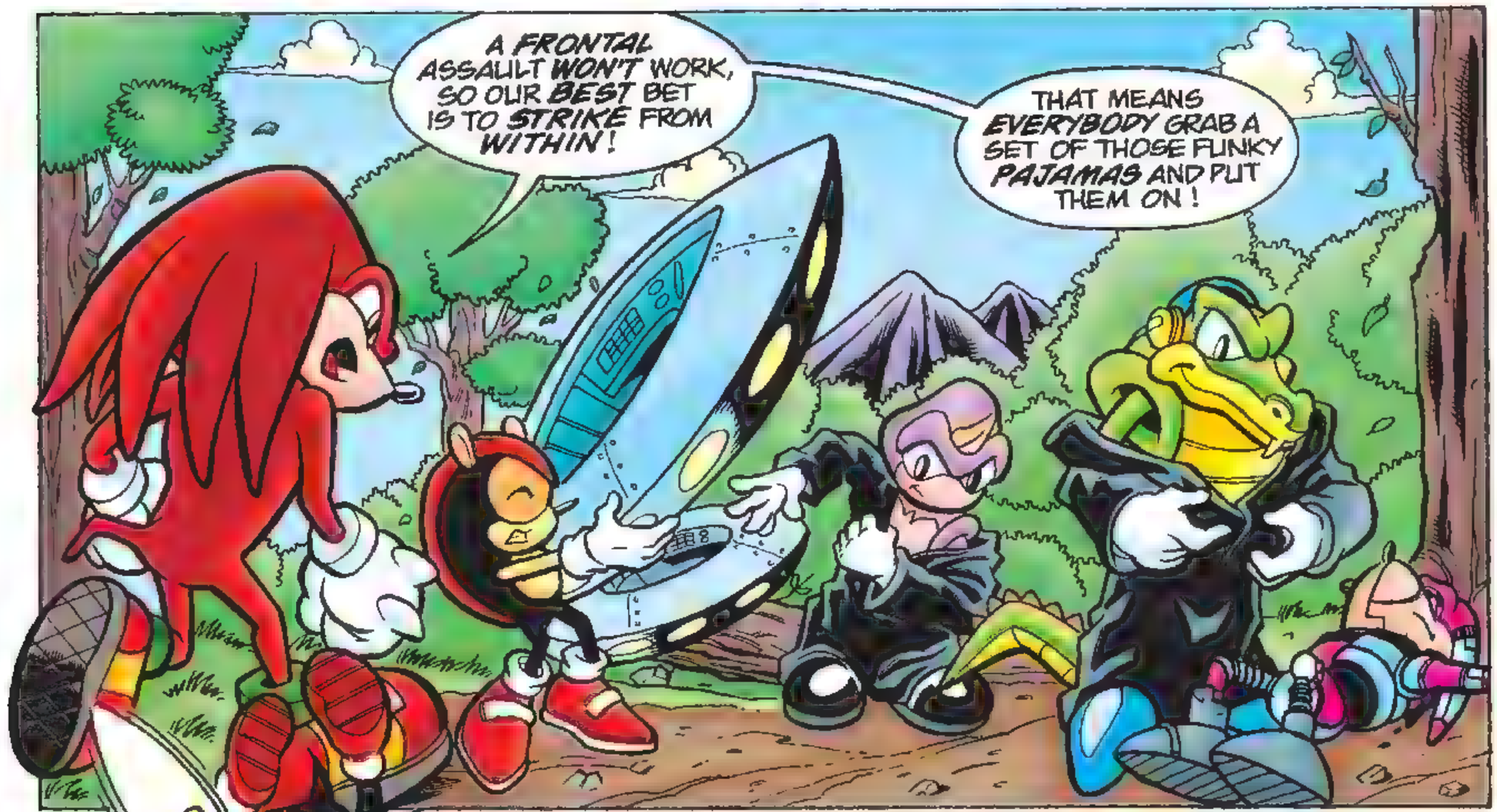
WE MUST BUILD A BRIDGE TO EACH OTHER--ALL OF US--IF OUR PEOPLE ARE TO SURVIVE AND GROW!
IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY PATH!
IN THE EVENT I DON'T RETURN--


--THERE IS ALWAYS MORE THAN ONE OPTION!
CHOOSE WISELY!

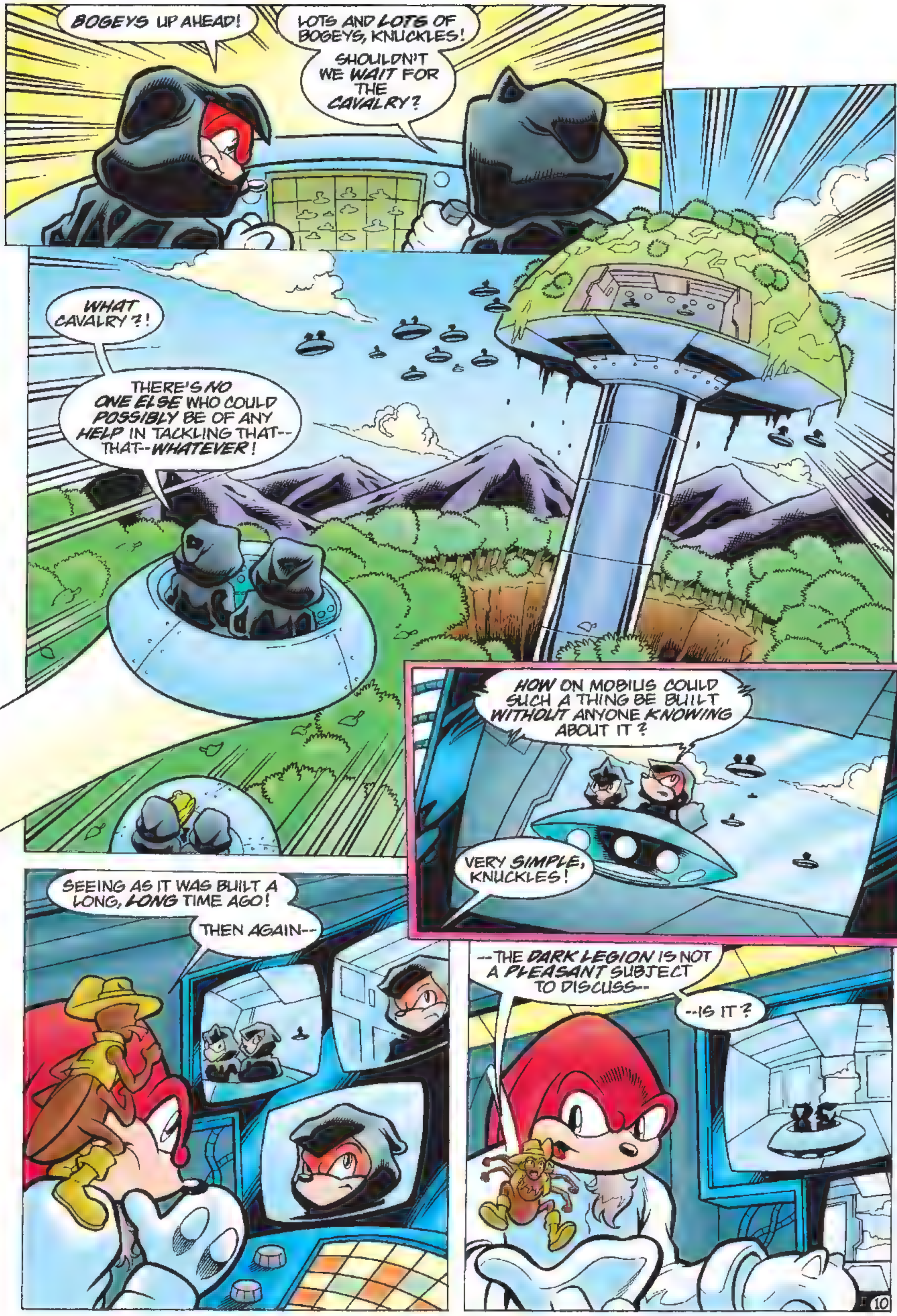

I SUBMIT TO THIS DISTINGUISHED COUNCIL--
--THERE GOES A SHINING EXAMPLE OF WHY WE SHALL OVERCOME!
GODSPEED, STEPPENWOLF!


HOO-*HAH*! THAT WAS SOME *PAR-TAY*!
NAH! THAT WAS JUST FOR *OPENERS*!
C'MON! WE'VE GOTTA SEE WHAT'S *WHAT*!


MAN-OH-MAN, KNUCKLES! CAN YOU *BELIEVE* YOUR *EYES*?!
THE *DARK LEGION* STILL HAS A *LOT* TO FALL BACK ON, MIGHTY!
THAT'S PUTTING IT *SOFT TIP*, ESPY!


A *FRONTAL* ASSAULT *WON'T* WORK, SO OUR *BEST* BET IS TO *STRIKE* FROM *WITHIN*!
THAT MEANS *EVERYBODY* GRAB A SET OF THOSE FUNKY *PAJAMAS* AND PUT THEM ON!

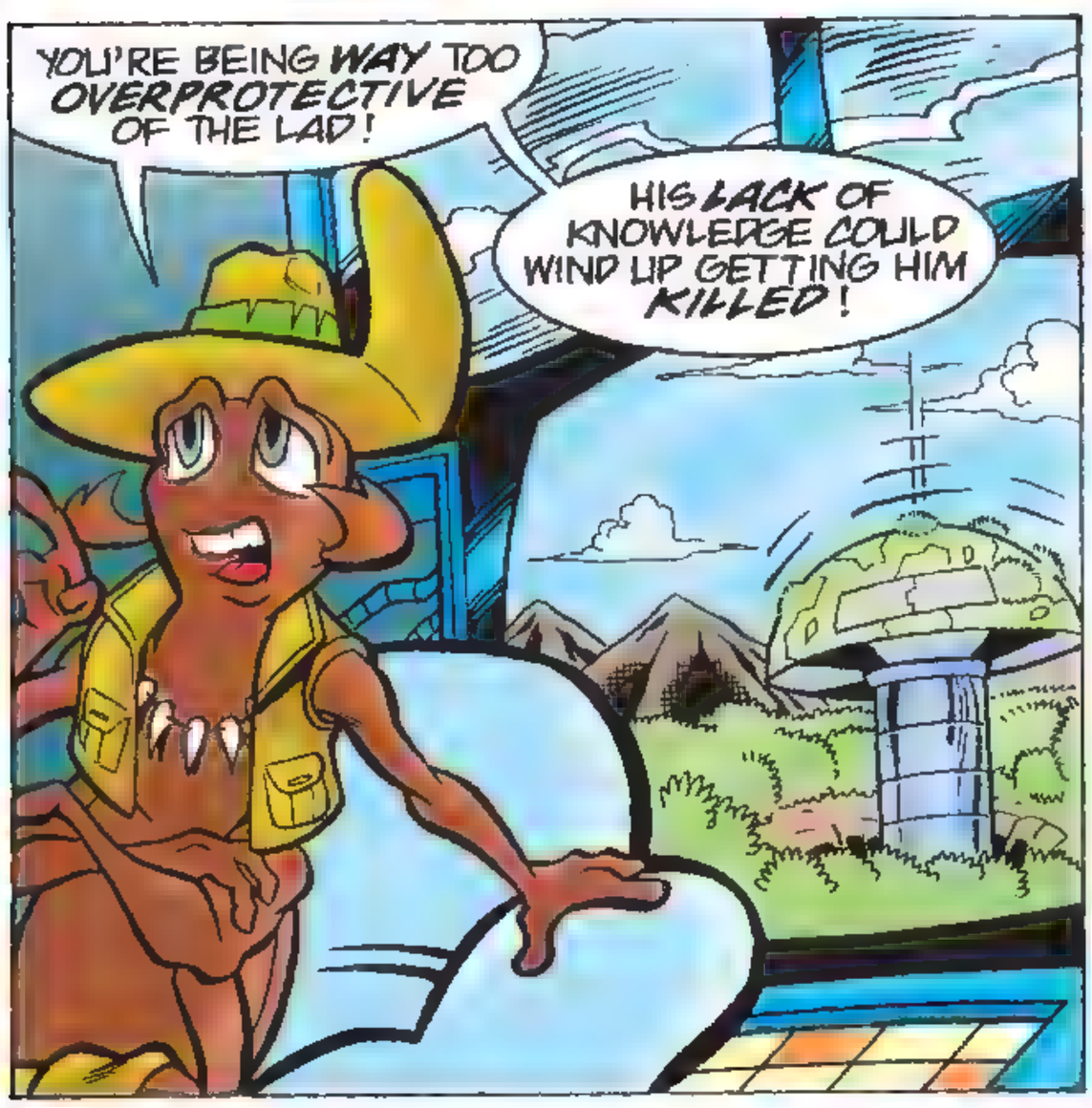
EVEN *ME*, KNUCKLES?
GET *REAL*, CHARM!
FOR NOW, THOUGH--
--HANG LOOSE AND GET ON BOARD!
ALRIGHT, GANG! SET COURSE--
THATAWAY!

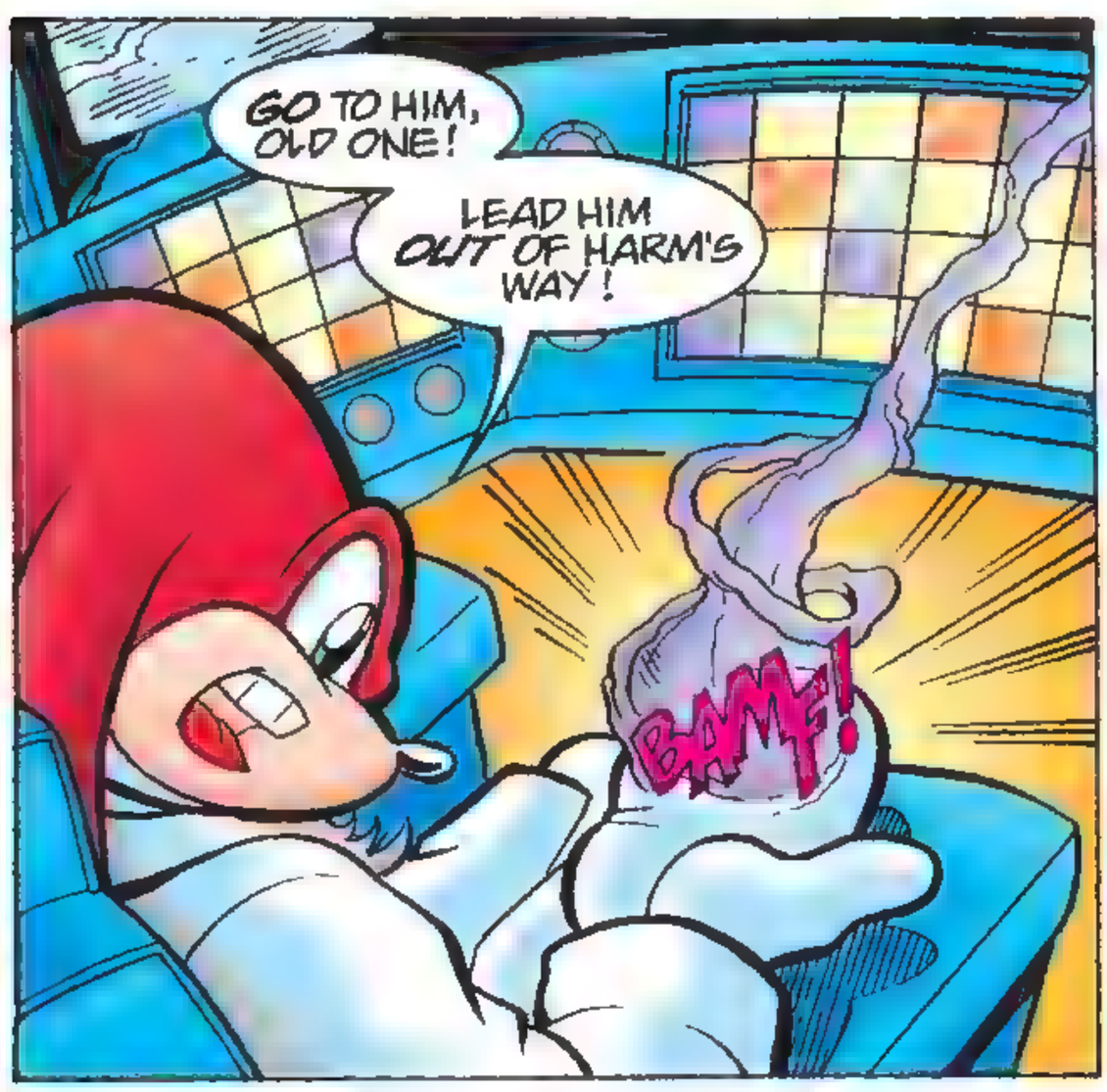

BOGEYS UP AHEAD!
LOTS AND LOTS OF BOGEYS, KNUCKLES!
SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR THE CAVALRY?
WHAT CAVALRY?!
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE WHO COULD POSSIBLY BE OF ANY HELP IN TACKLING THAT--THAT--WHATEVER!
HOW ON MOBIUS COULD SUCH A THING BE BUILT WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING ABOUT IT?
VERY SIMPLE, KNUCKLES!
SEEING AS IT WAS BUILT A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!
THEN AGAIN--
--THE DARK LEGION IS NOT A PLEASANT SUBJECT TO DISCUSS--
--IS IT?

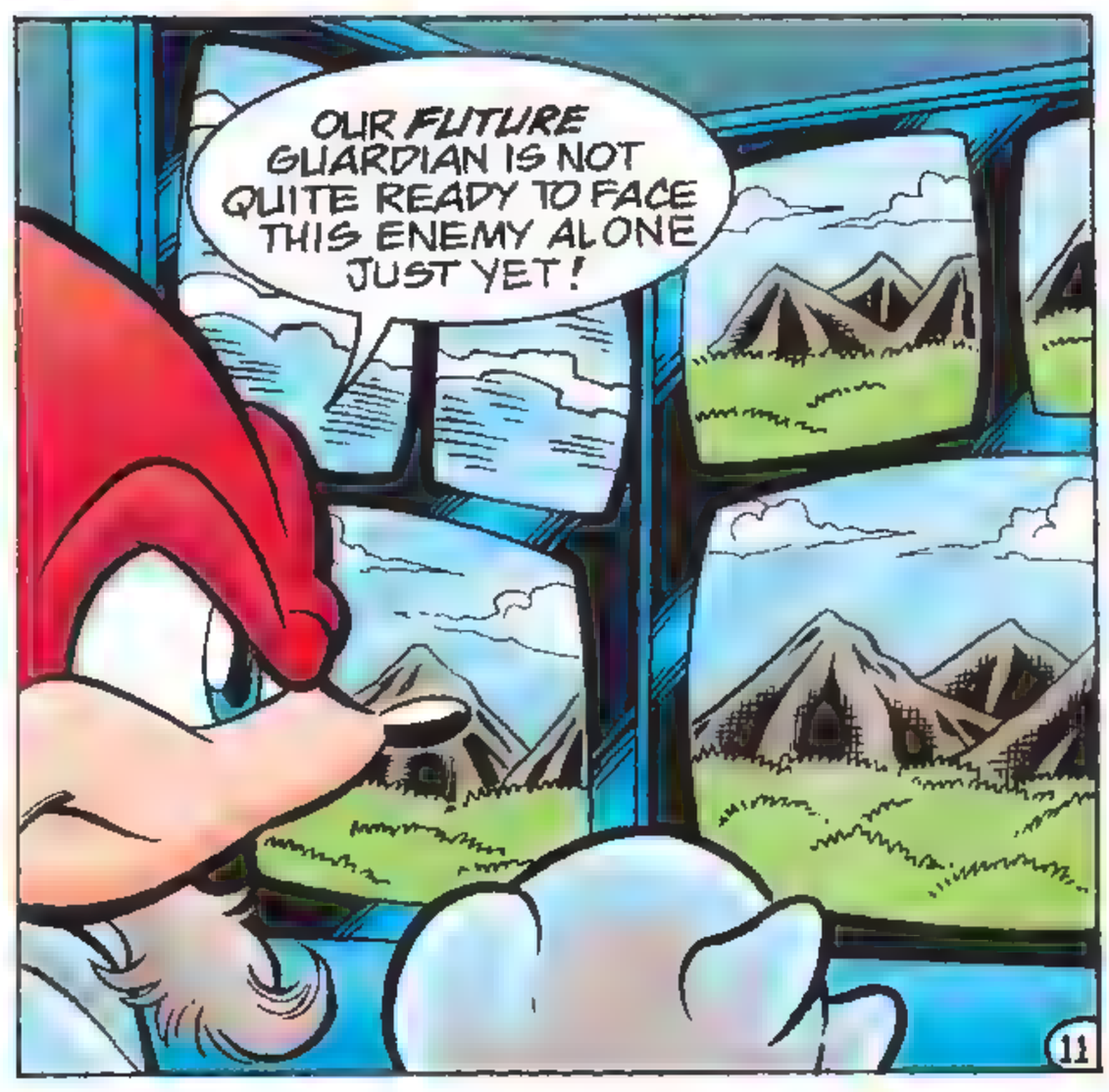
NO, IT'S *NOT*!

I WAS *HOPING* KNUCKLES WOULD BE *SPARED* THIS--

--SPARED LOTS OF THINGS ABOUT HIS *HISTORY*!







"AFTER ALL, *HE'S* ONLY EXPERIENCED FIFTEEN SEASONS, WHILE THE *LEGION* HAS EXISTED FOR THAT MANY *GENERATIONS*!"

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

ALL PERSONNEL ARE TO ASSEMBLE IN THE GREAT HALL!

THE GREAT HALL?

IXNAY, MIGHTY!

JUST *FOLLOW* THE PROCESSION!

SAY, KNUX, ISN'T THAT--?

GREAT HALL

--SHORT, SCARY AND UGLY? YEAH, THAT'S *HIM* ALRIGHT!

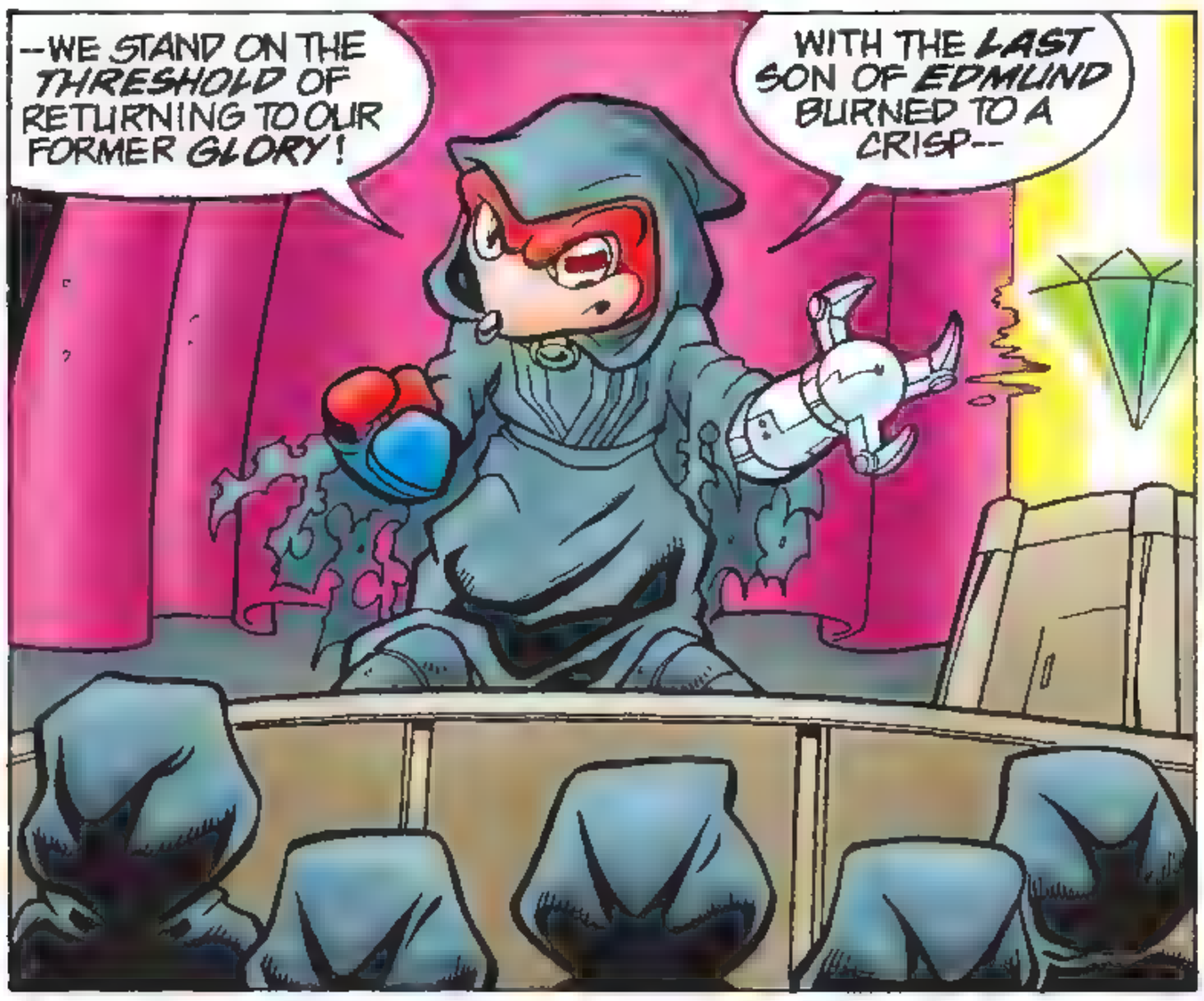
ANY IDEA WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?

"WHAT ELSE BUT--"

THE CHAOS EMERALD!

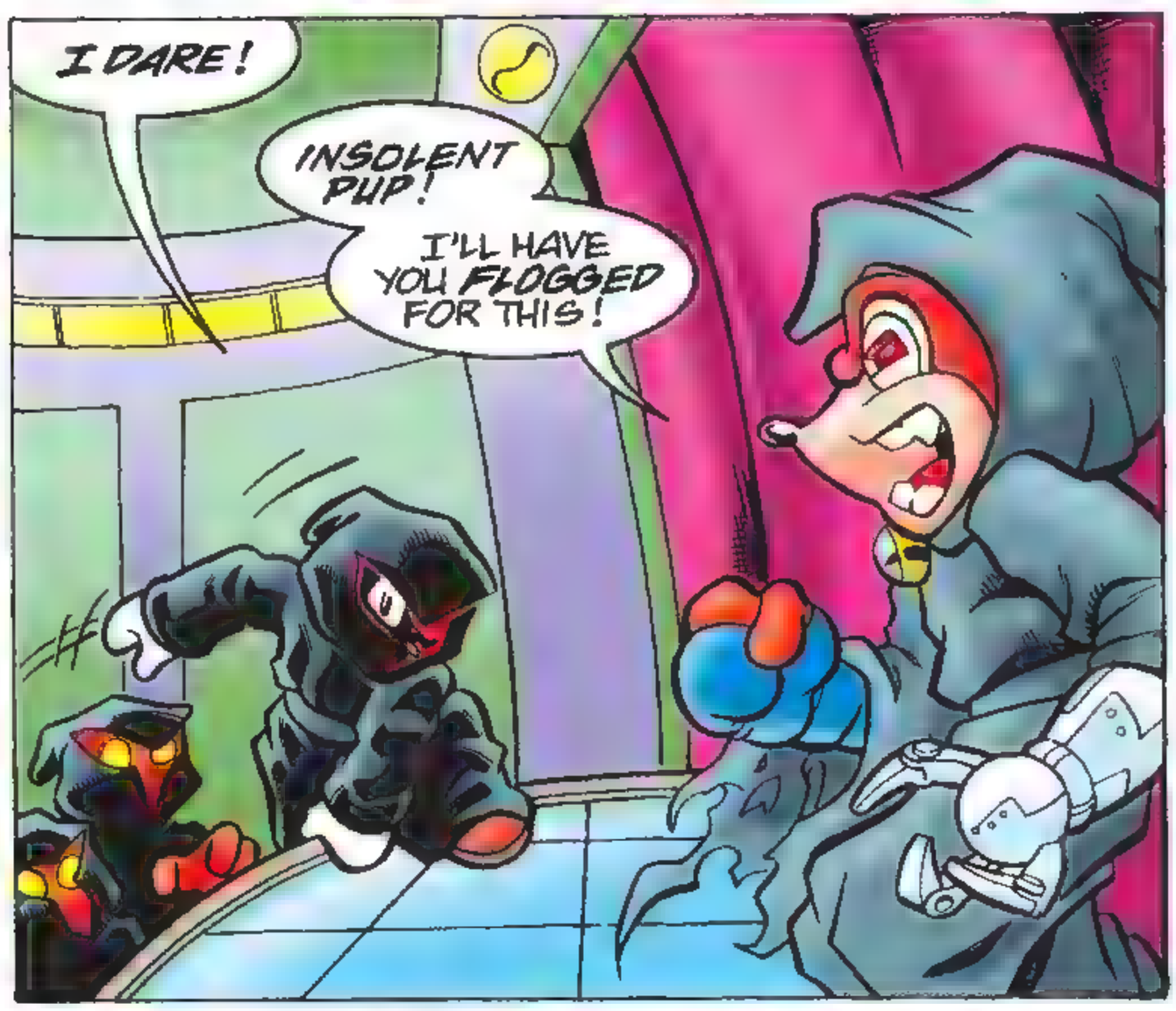
THIS IS WHAT IT HAS *ALWAYS* BEEN ABOUT!

AFTER ALL THIS TIME--

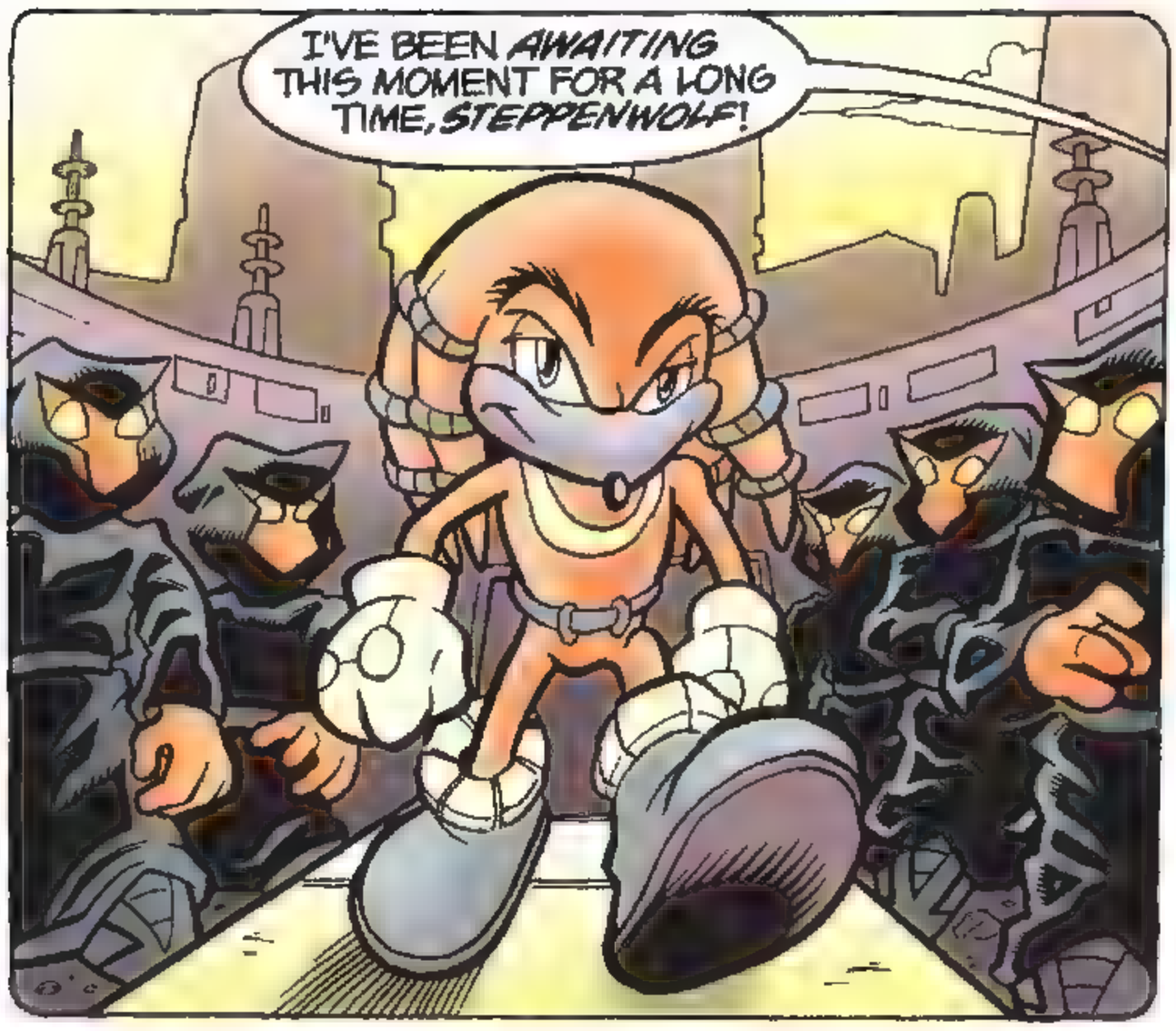

--WE STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF RETURNING TO OUR FORMER GLORY!
WITH THE LAST SON OF EDMUND BURNED TO A CRISP--

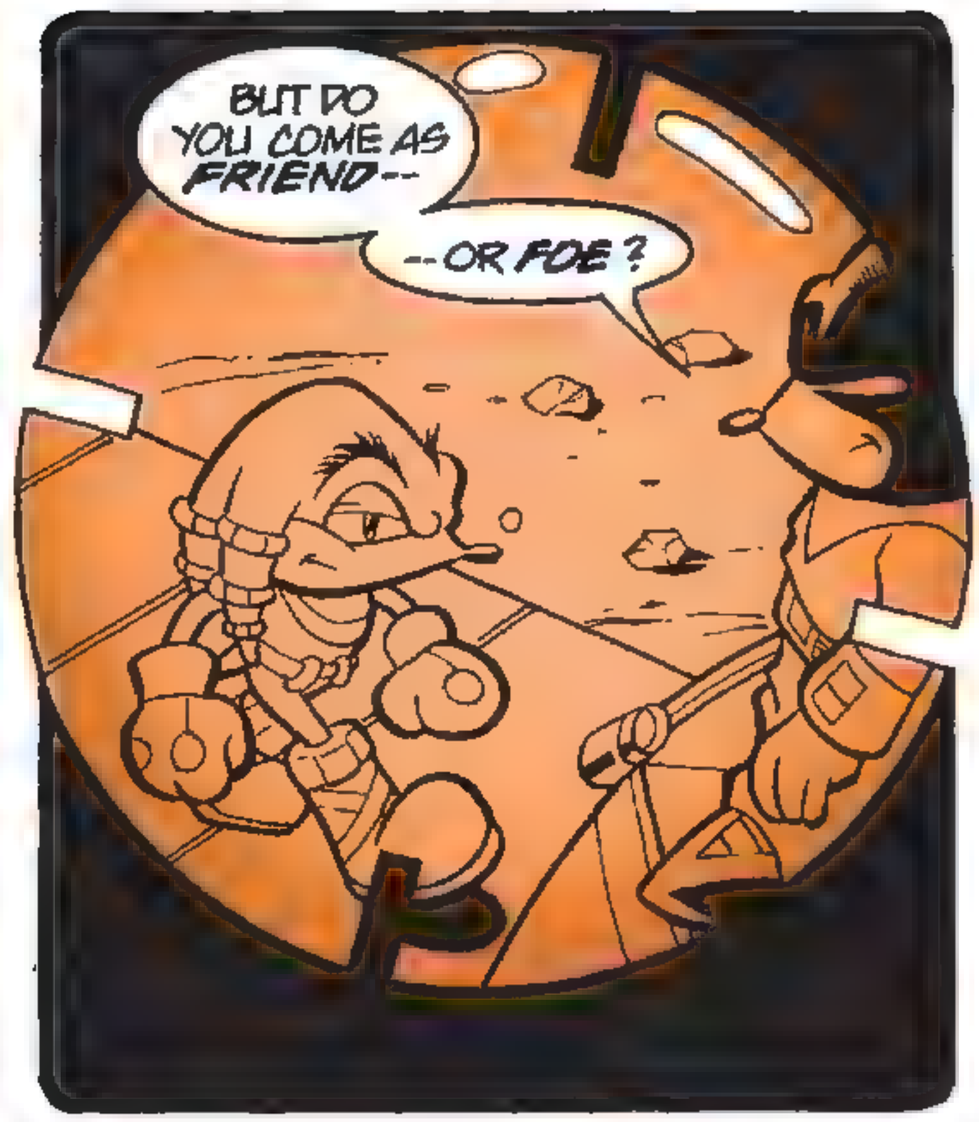
--THERE'S NOTHING TO STEP--EH?
I'D RETHINK THAT CONCEPT IF I WERE YOU!

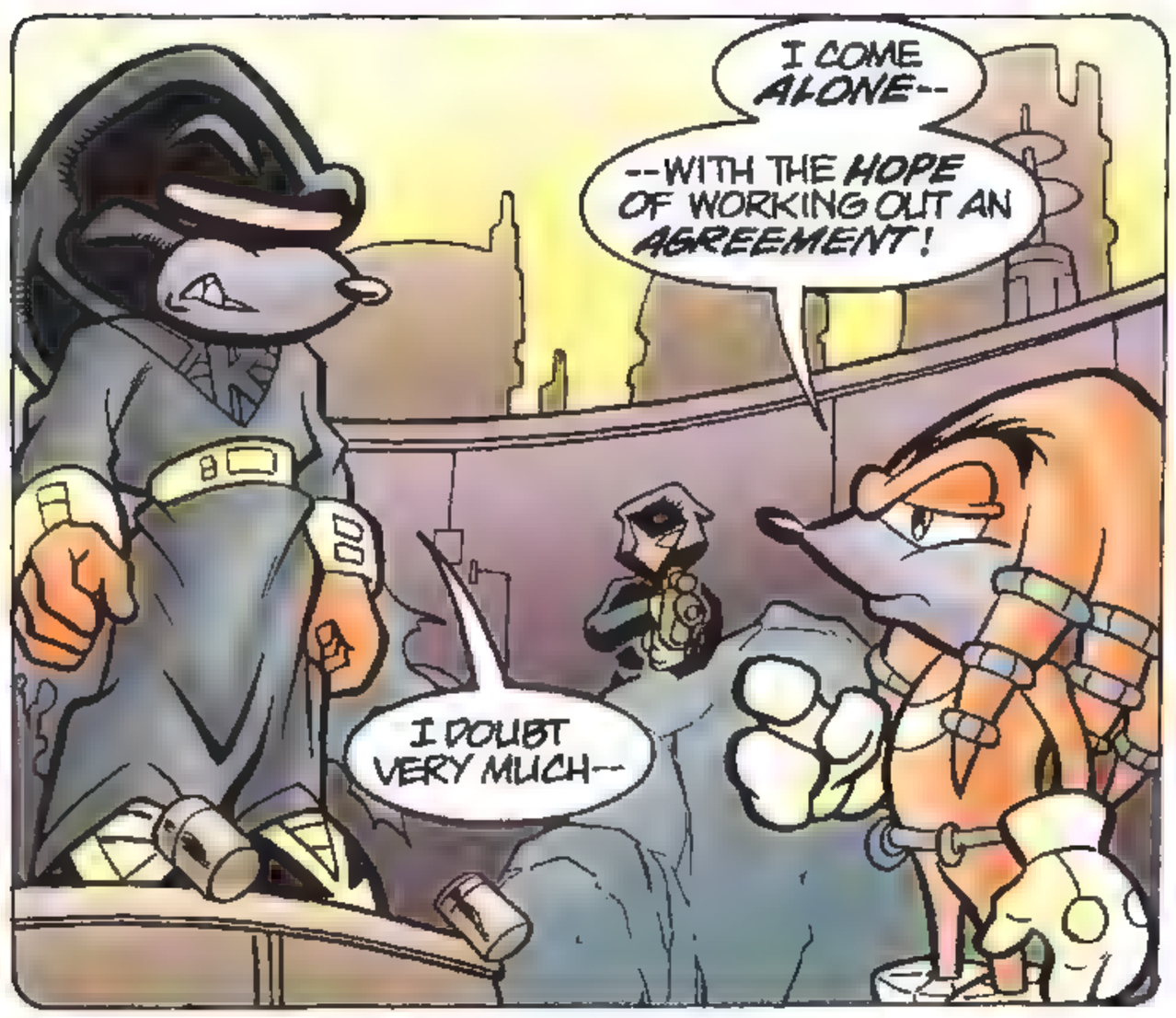
WHO SAID THAT?!!
WHO DARES MOCK KRAGOK?!!


I DARE!
INSOLENT PUP!
I'LL HAVE YOU FLOGGED FOR THIS!

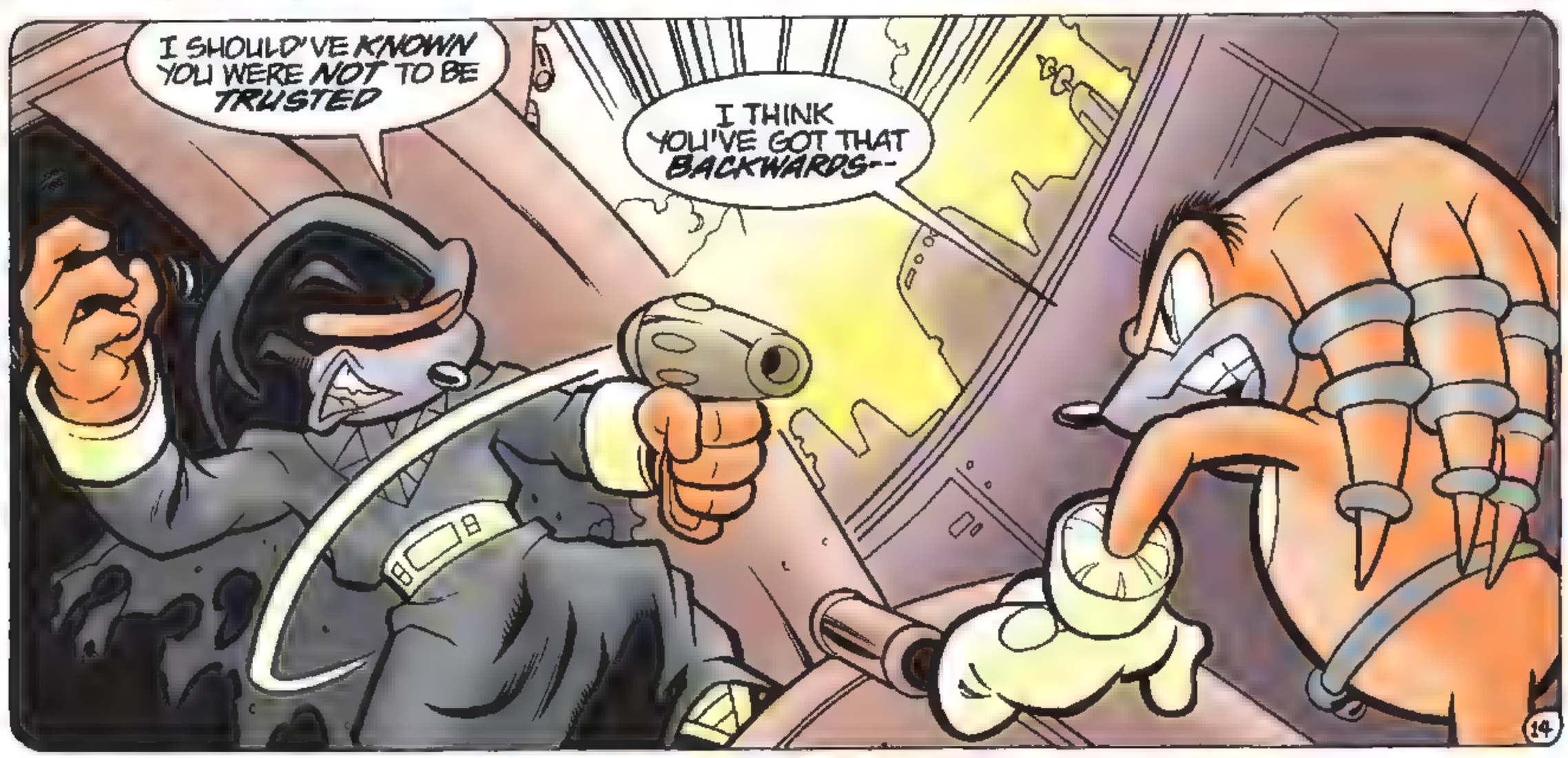
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN YOUR HOT AIR TO GET THE JOB DONE!
YOU!


I'VE BEEN AWAITING THIS MOMENT FOR A LONG TIME, STEPPENWOLF!

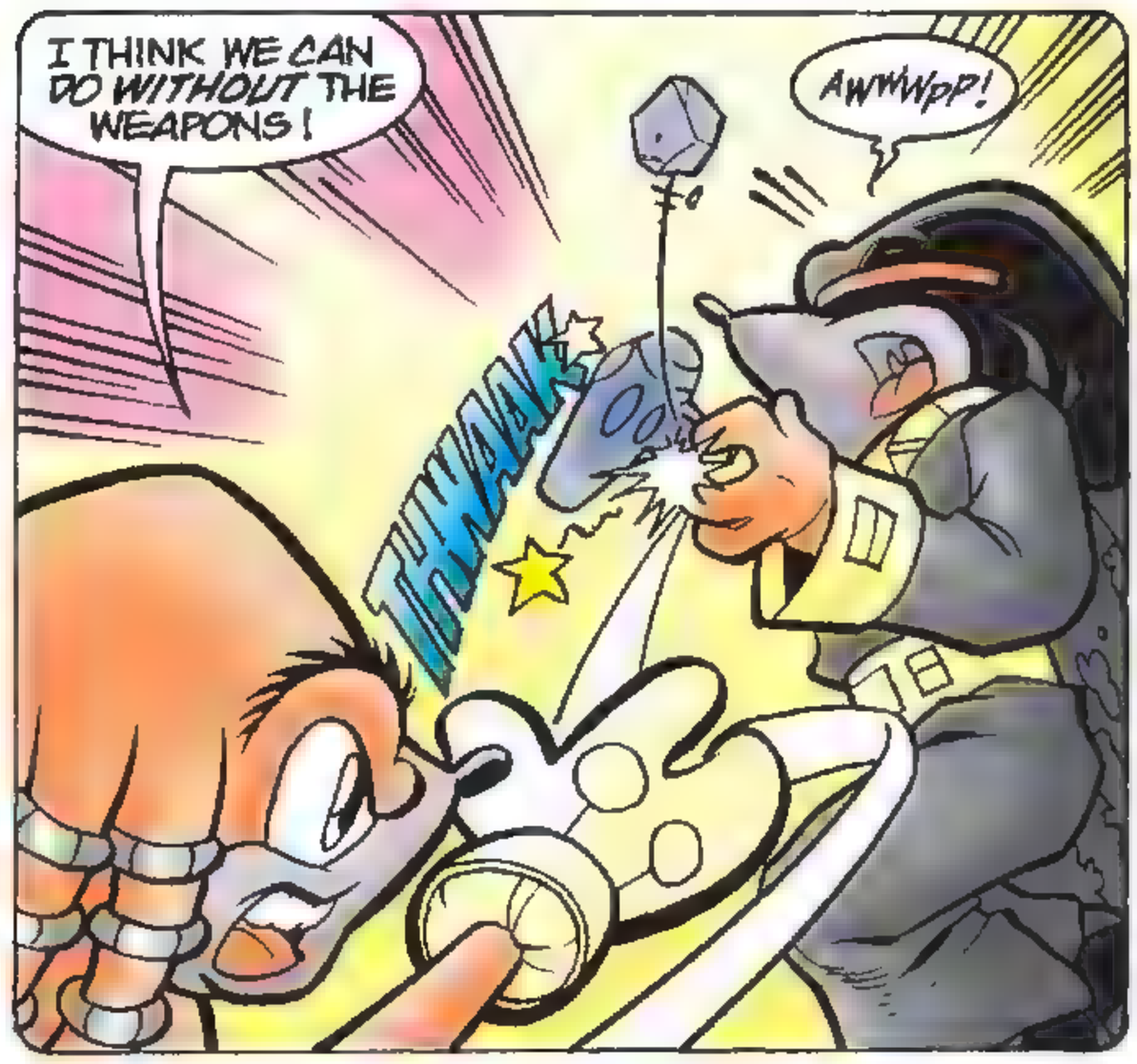

BUT DO YOU COME AS FRIEND--
--OR FOE?


I COME ALONE--
--WITH THE HOPE OF WORKING OUT AN AGREEMENT!
I DOUBT VERY MUCH--

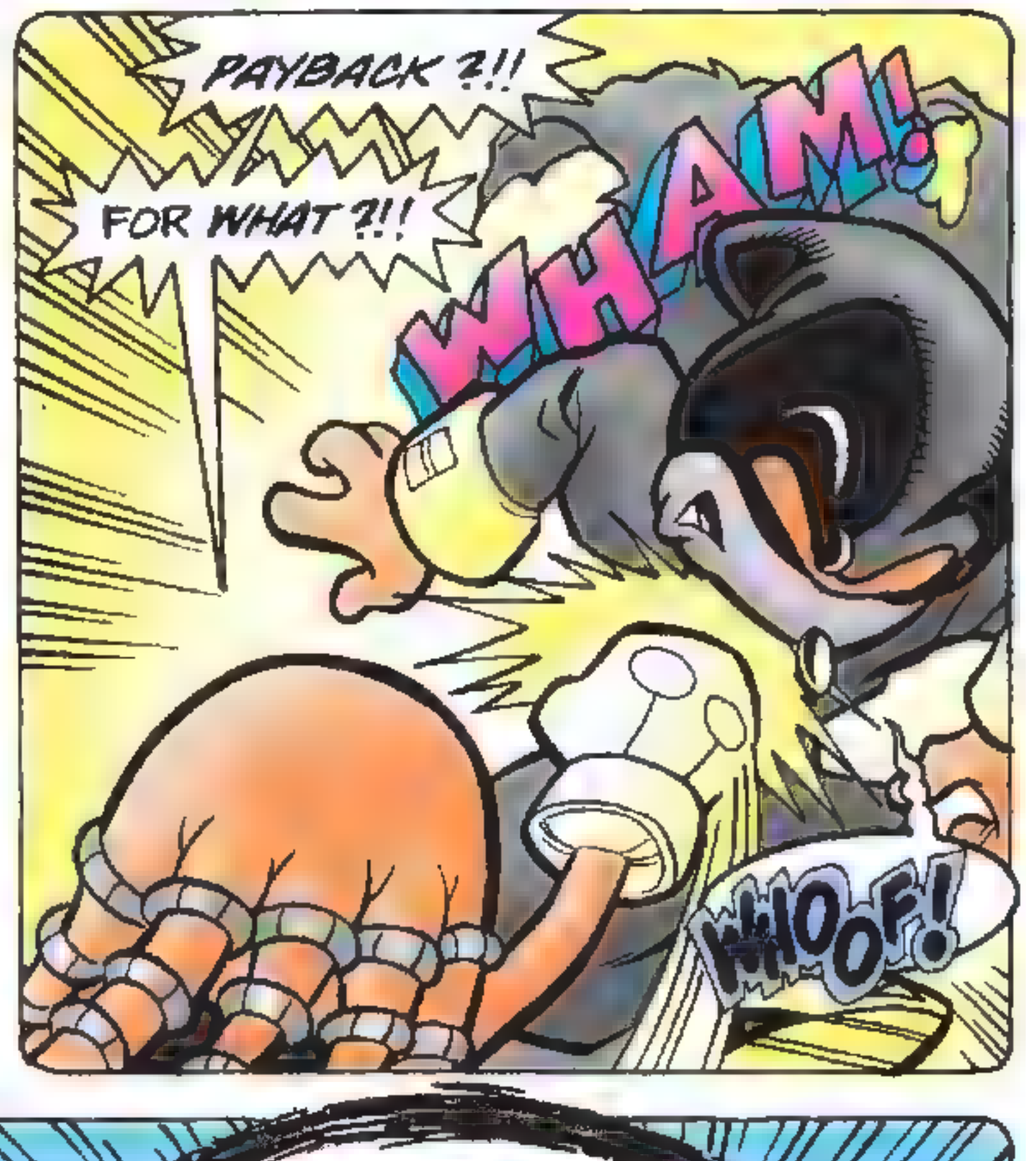
--THAT ANYTHING YOU S--
OWWW!
SSSSSSSSS


I SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU WERE NOT TO BE TRUSTED
I THINK YOU'VE GOT THAT BACKWARDS--

--AS WHAT ELSE COULD EXPLAIN AN ASSASSIN WEARING YOUR COLORS!
WAAAT!

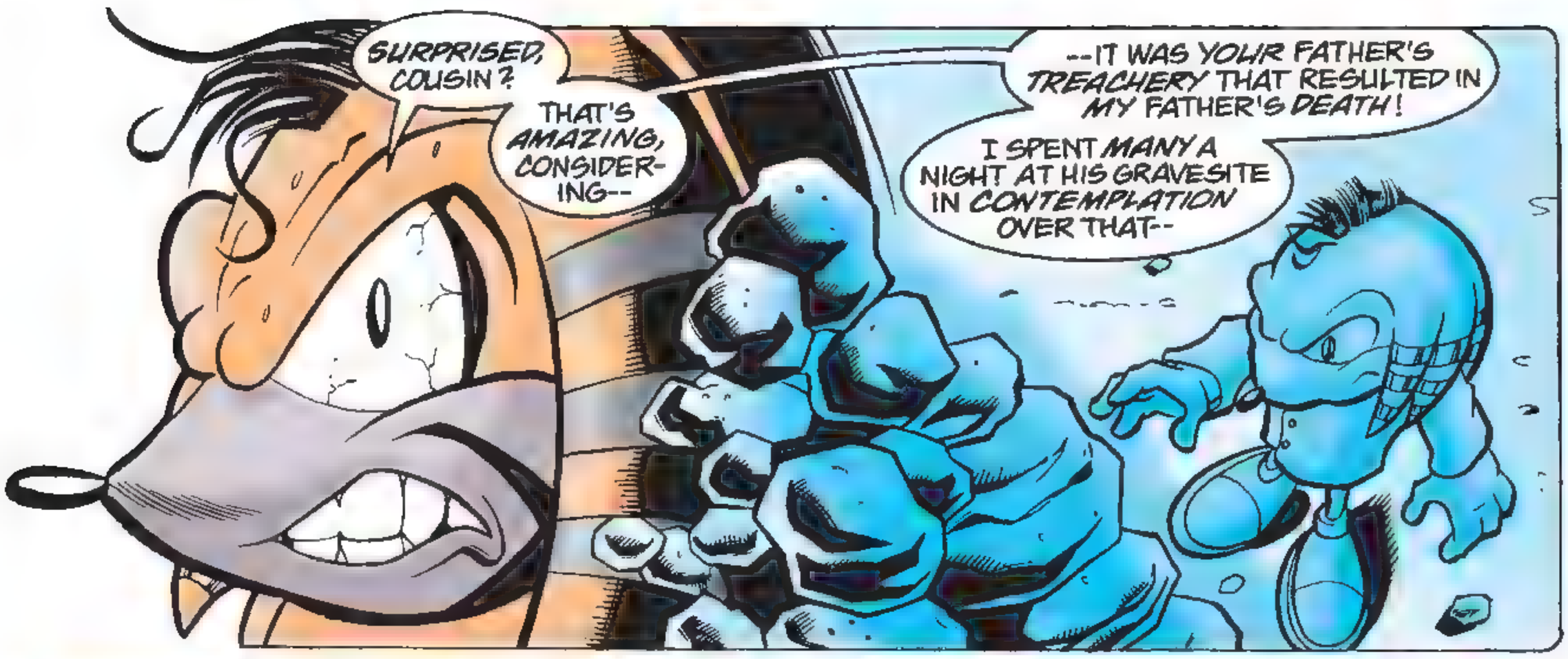

I THINK WE CAN DO WITHOUT THE WEAPONS!
AWWWPP!
THWAAK

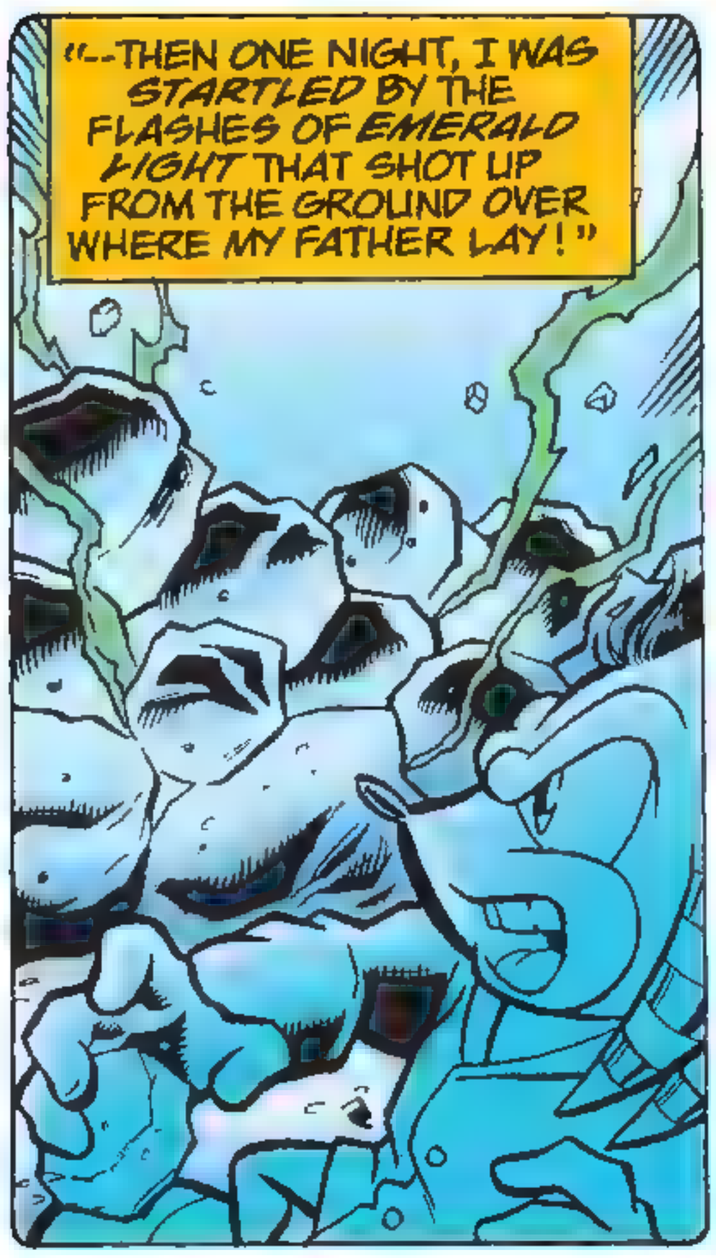
NO MATTER!
IT'S STILL PAYBACK TIME, STEPPENWOLF!
WHOOSH


PAYBACK ?!!
FOR WHAT ?!!
WHAM!
WHOOF!

WHAT HAVE I EVER--

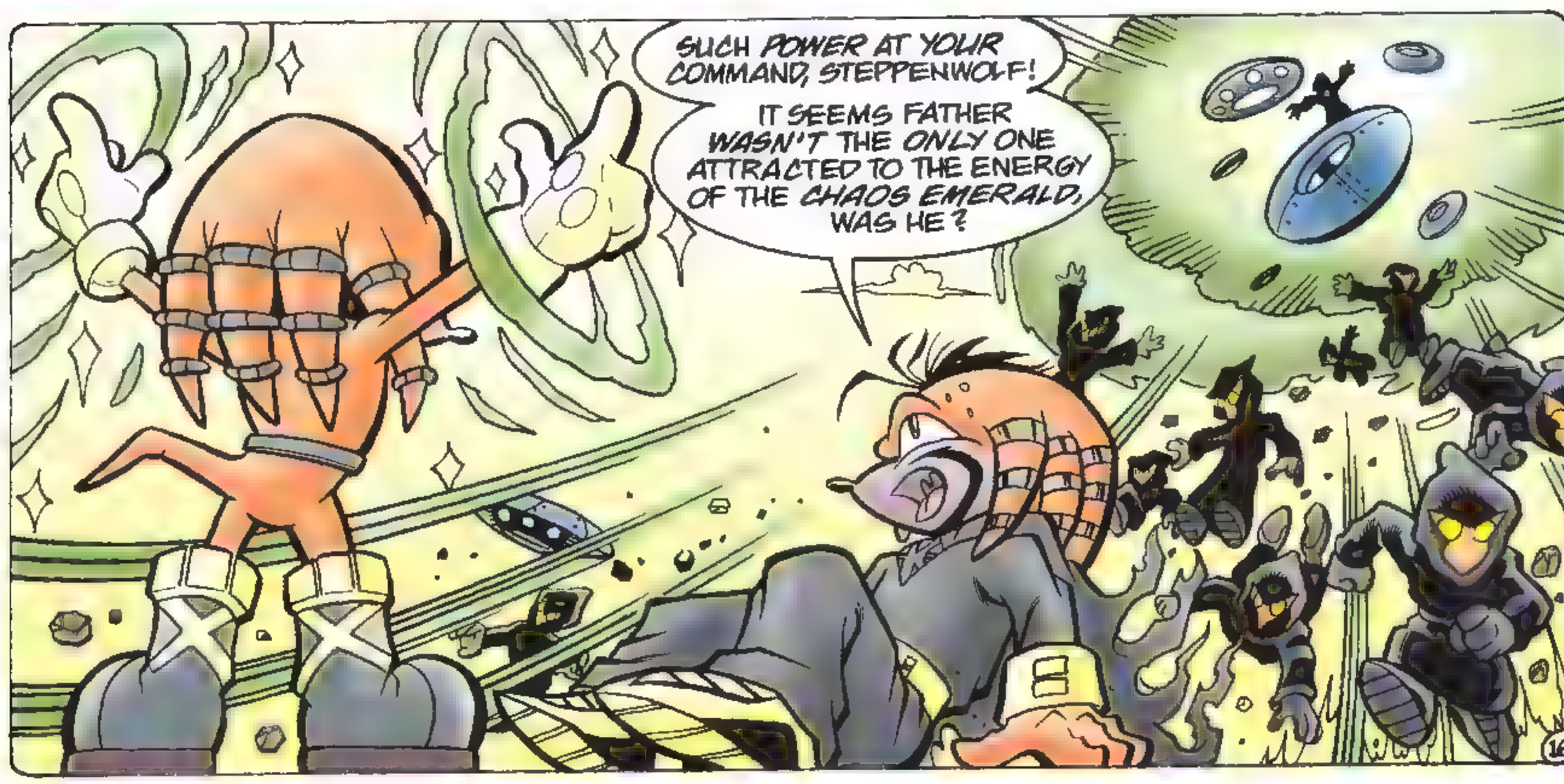
MENNIKER!
WHY?


SURPRISED, COUSIN?
THAT'S AMAZING, CONSIDERING--
--IT WAS YOUR FATHER'S TREACHERY THAT RESULTED IN MY FATHER'S DEATH!
I SPENT MANY A NIGHT AT HIS GRAVESITE IN CONTEMPLATION OVER THAT--

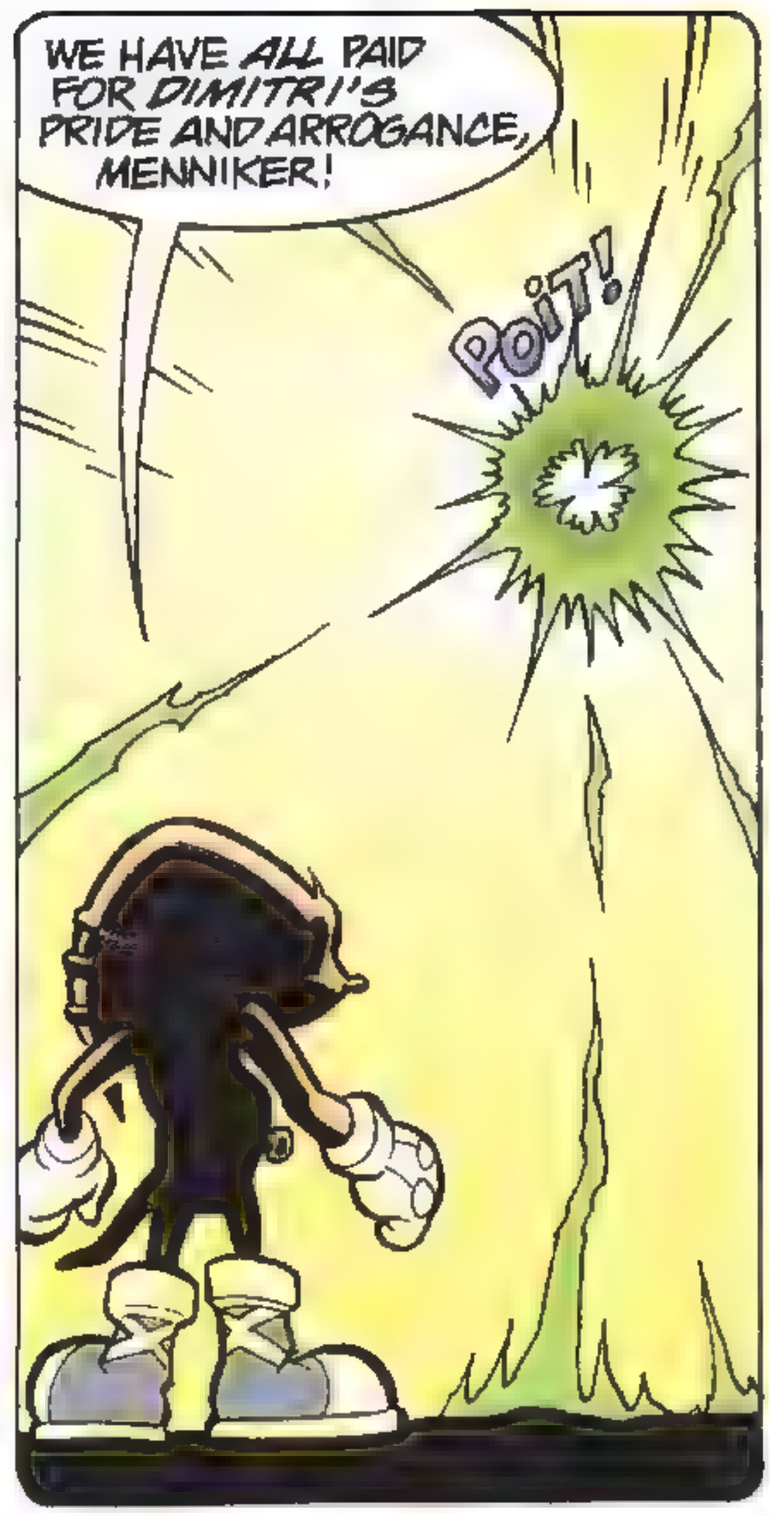

"--THEN ONE NIGHT, I WAS STARTLED BY THE FLASHES OF EMERALD LIGHT THAT SHOT UP FROM THE GROUND OVER WHERE MY FATHER LAY!"

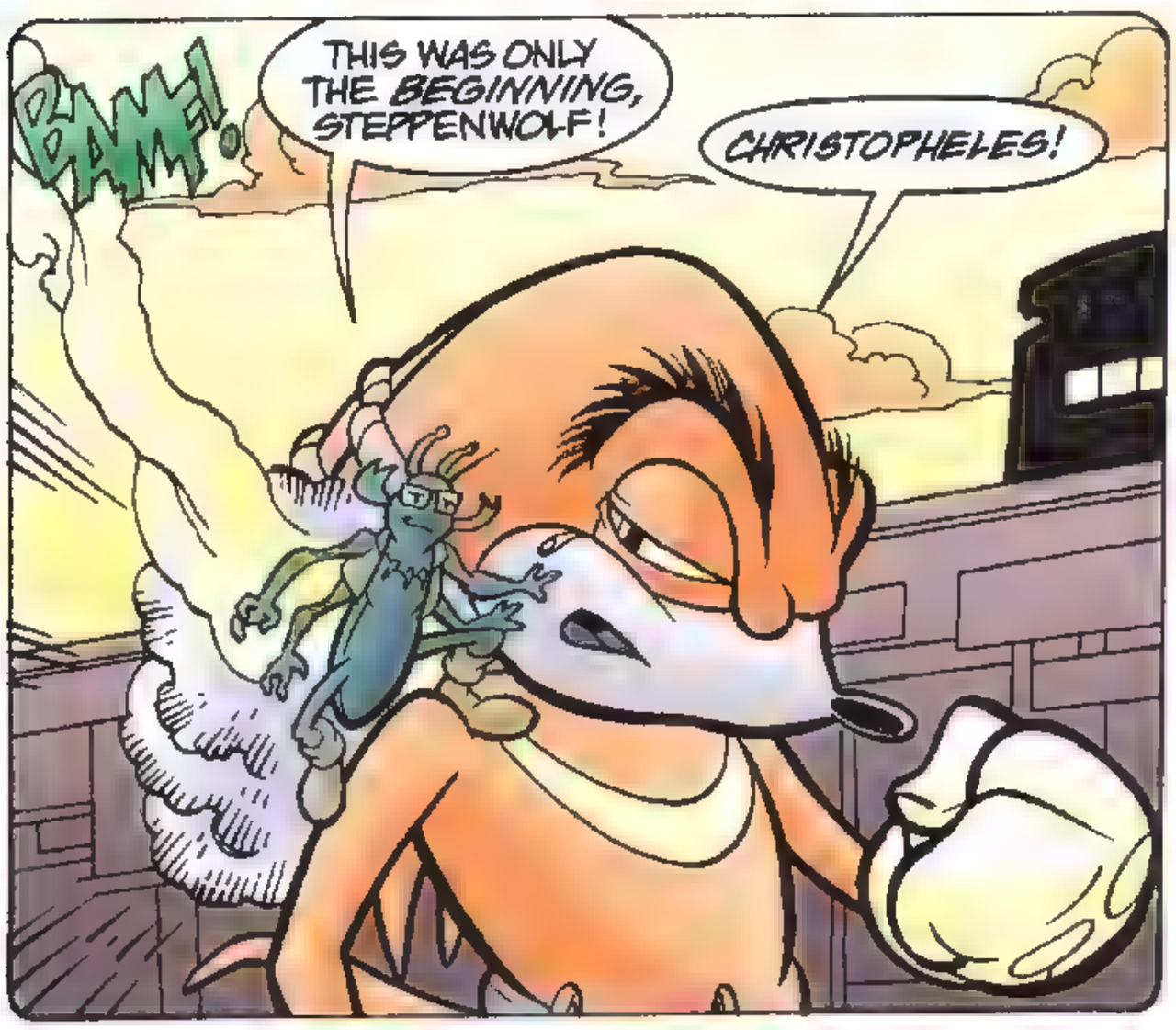
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY OR HOW--
--BUT IT WAS AS IF MY FATHER HAD SENT ME A MESSAGE!

DON'T YOU SEE? HE WANTED ME TO CONTINUE WHAT HE HAD STARTED!
ALL I UNDERSTAND--
--IS, IF YOU CONTINUE WHAT YOU STARTED, IT COULD MEAN DISASTER FOR OUR PEOPLE!

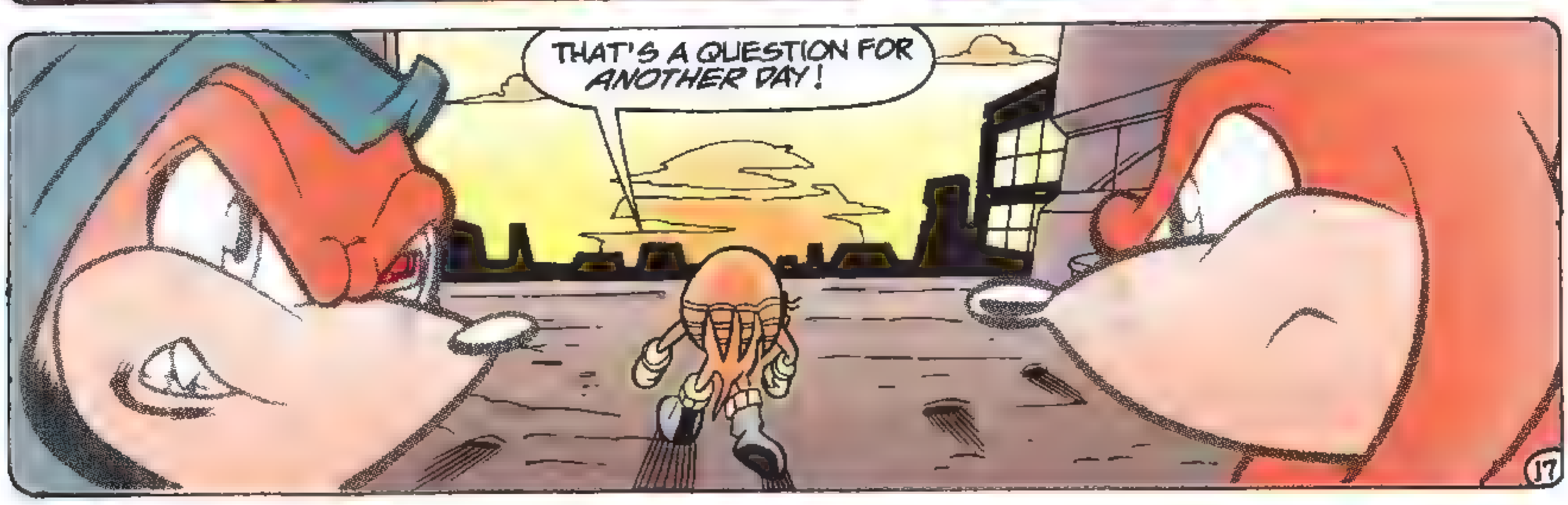

SUCH POWER AT YOUR COMMAND, STEPPENWOLF!
IT SEEMS FATHER WASN'T THE ONLY ONE ATTRACTED TO THE ENERGY OF THE CHAOS EMERALD, WAS HE?

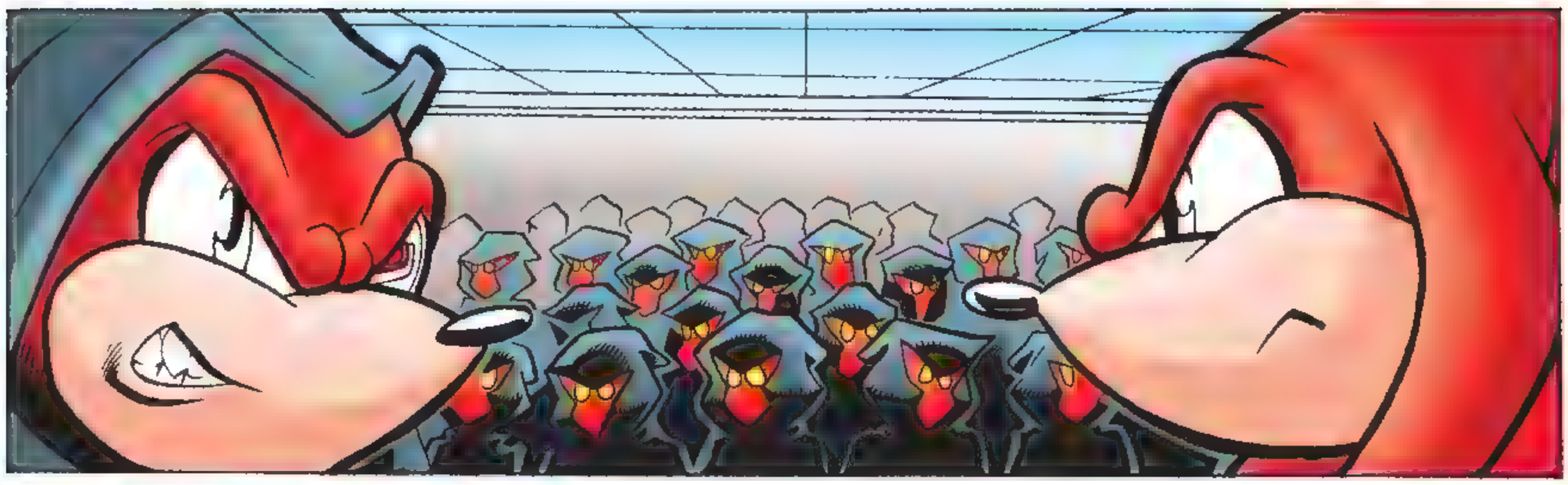
YOU AND YOURS WILL PAY, STEPPENWOLF --
KRA KHUBUM


WE HAVE ALL PAID FOR DIMITRI'S PRIDE AND ARROGANCE, MENNIKER!
POIT!

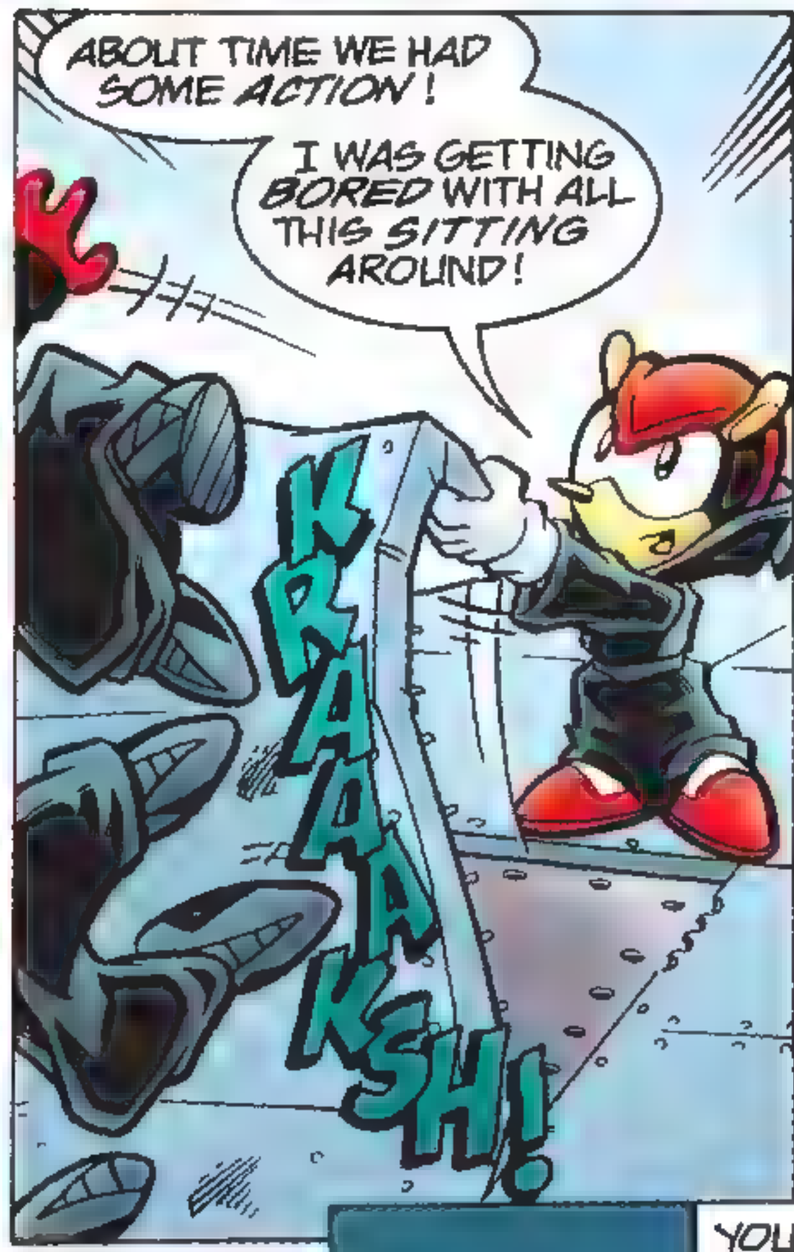

BAMF!
THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING, STEPPENWOLF!
CHRISTOPHELES!

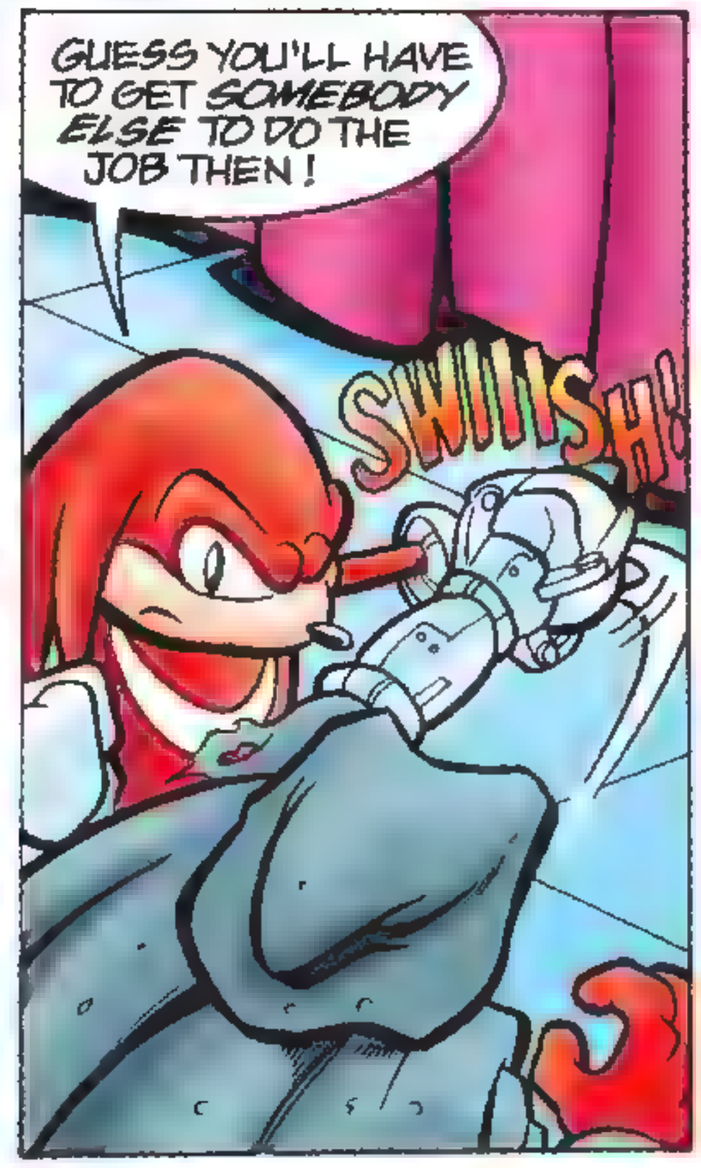
WHAT DIMITRI STARTED CONTINUED WITH HIS SON! WHO KNOWS WHERE IT GOES FROM HERE?


THAT'S A QUESTION FOR ANOTHER DAY!



YOU WANT A JOB DONE RIGHT--
--DO IT YOURSELF, I ALWAYS SAY!
KLAMP!


ABOUT TIME WE HAD SOME ACTION!
I WAS GETTING BORED WITH ALL THIS SITTING AROUND!
KRAAAKSH!


GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO GET SOMEBODY ELSE TO DO THE JOB THEN!
SWIIISH!

HAS EVERYONE GONE INSANE?!
THERE'S NOBODY THERE!
OOF!
POW!
OWW!
OUCH!

YOU HAVEN'T ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH YOU, SIMPLETON!
NO, HE DOESN'T--
--BUT I DO!

"I USED TECHNOLOGY TO HELP DEFEAT DIMITRI--"

WELL, I'LL BE! IRON GRIP BUT GLASS JAW!

WHACK

"--DESPITE GOING AGAINST THE TEACHINGS OF THE BROTHERHOOD--"

GUESS WE'RE A COUPLE OF NOBODIES, EH, ESPIO?

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, CHARMY!

"--BECAUSE ALL THINGS CONSIDERED--"

BAM!

OH, THERE YOU ARE!

ARCHIMEDES!

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I DIDN'T NEED YOU?!

"--I FEARED PUTTING THE CHAOS EMERALD IN JEOPARDY THE MOST!"

SORRY, GUYS, NO SOFT ROCK--

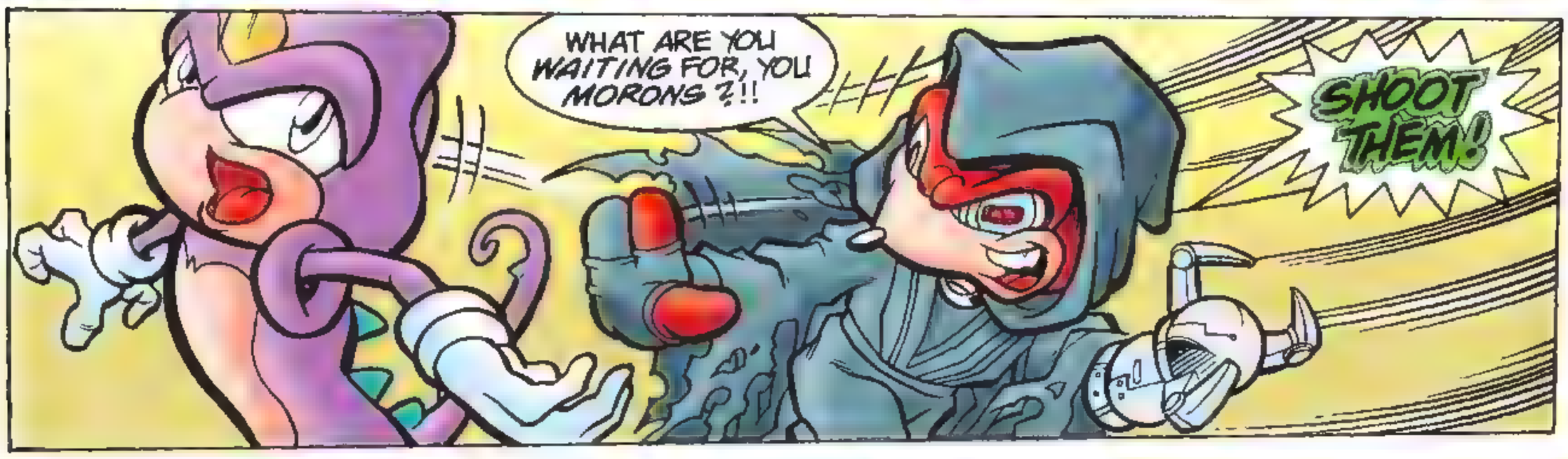
JUST PLENTY OF HEAVY METAL!

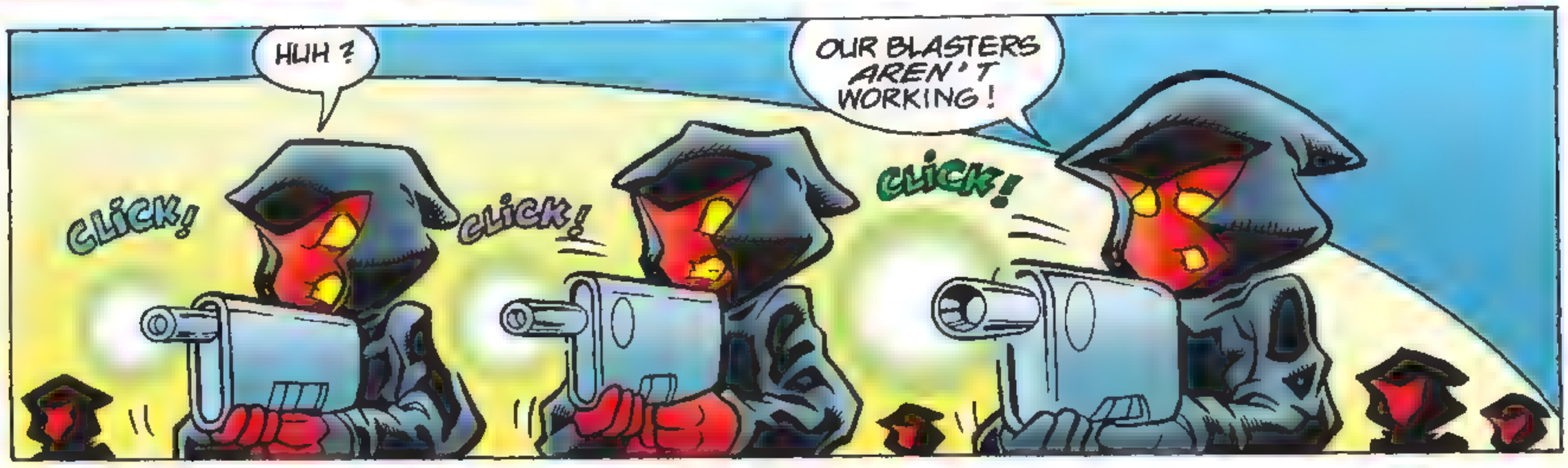
NOW, MORE SO BECAUSE OF MY SON--

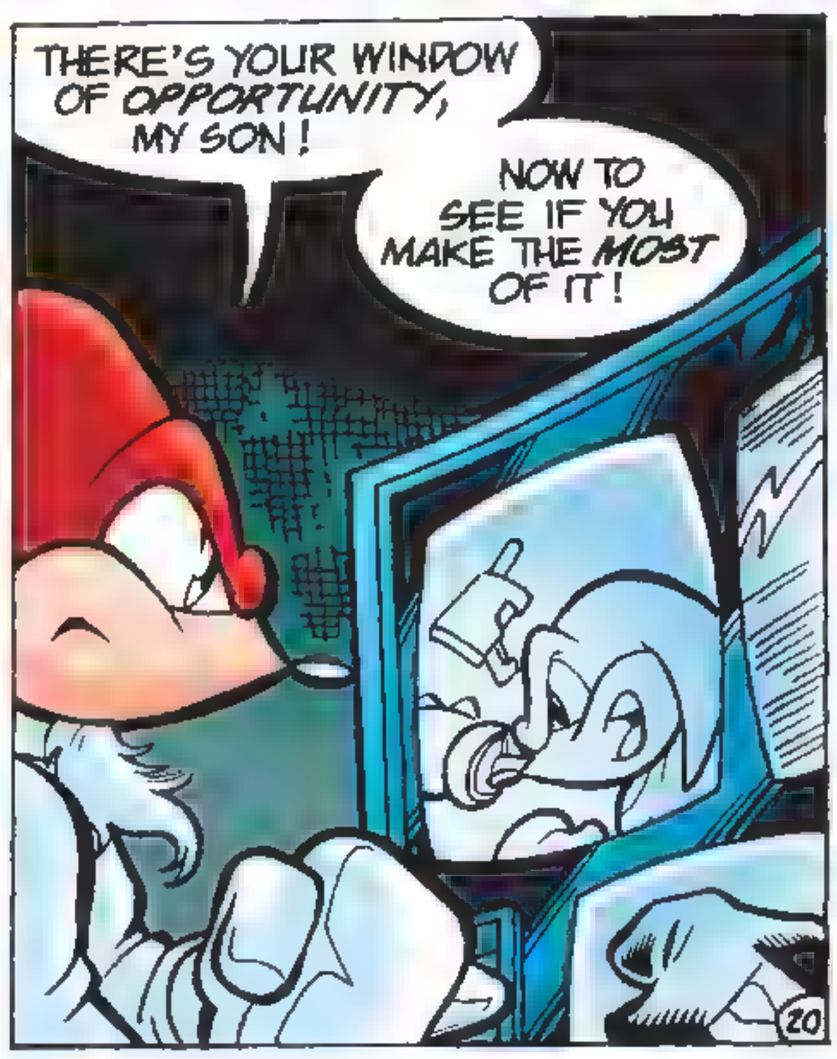
--I AM REMINDED OF MY DUTIES--

--AND THE LINK A GUARDIAN HAS WITH THE EMERALD!

KNUX, WE GOTTA BEAT FEET!
TOO LATE!
CHILL, FELLAS!
WE'VE GOTTEN OUT OF BIGGER PICKLES BEFORE!



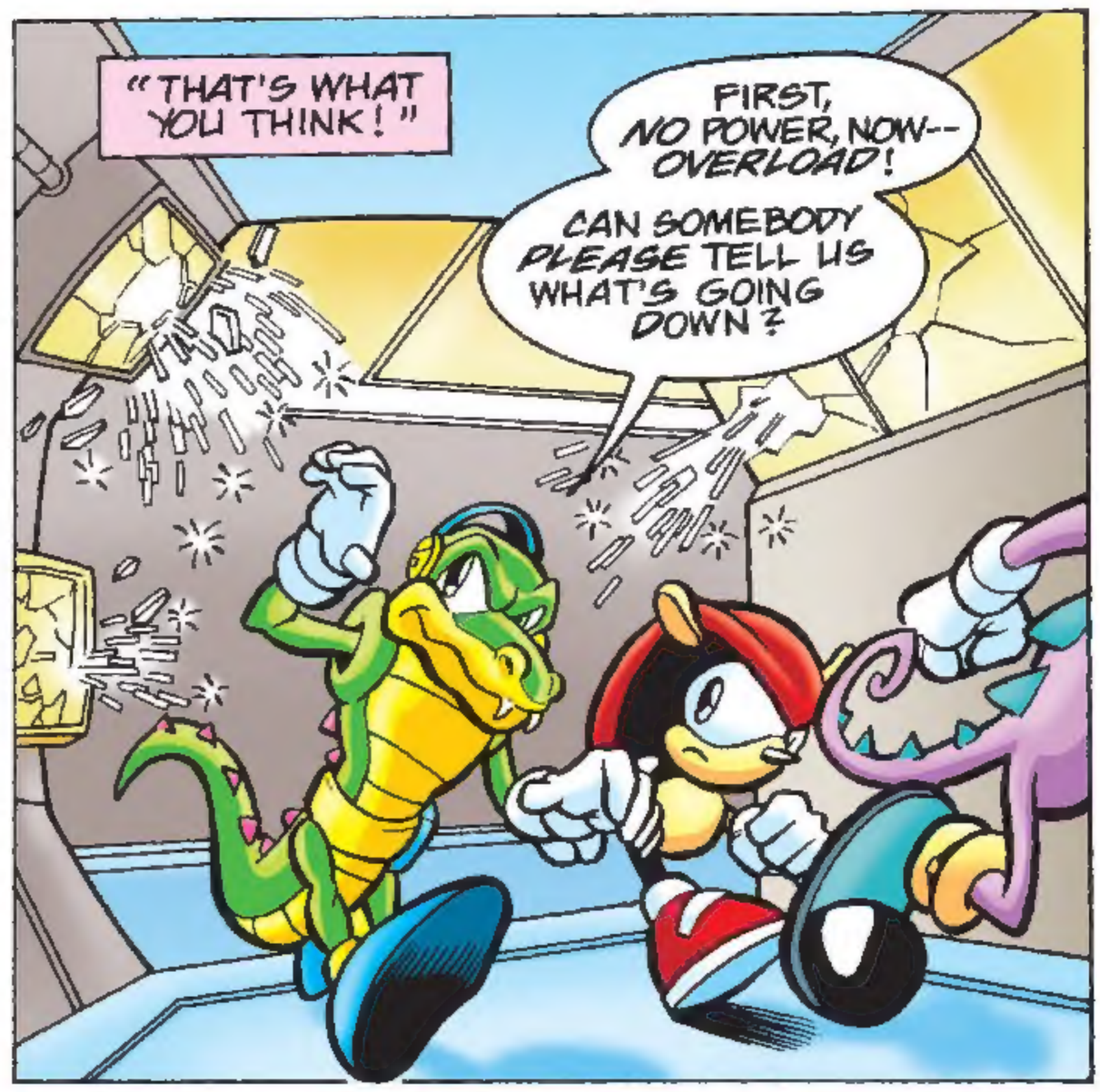


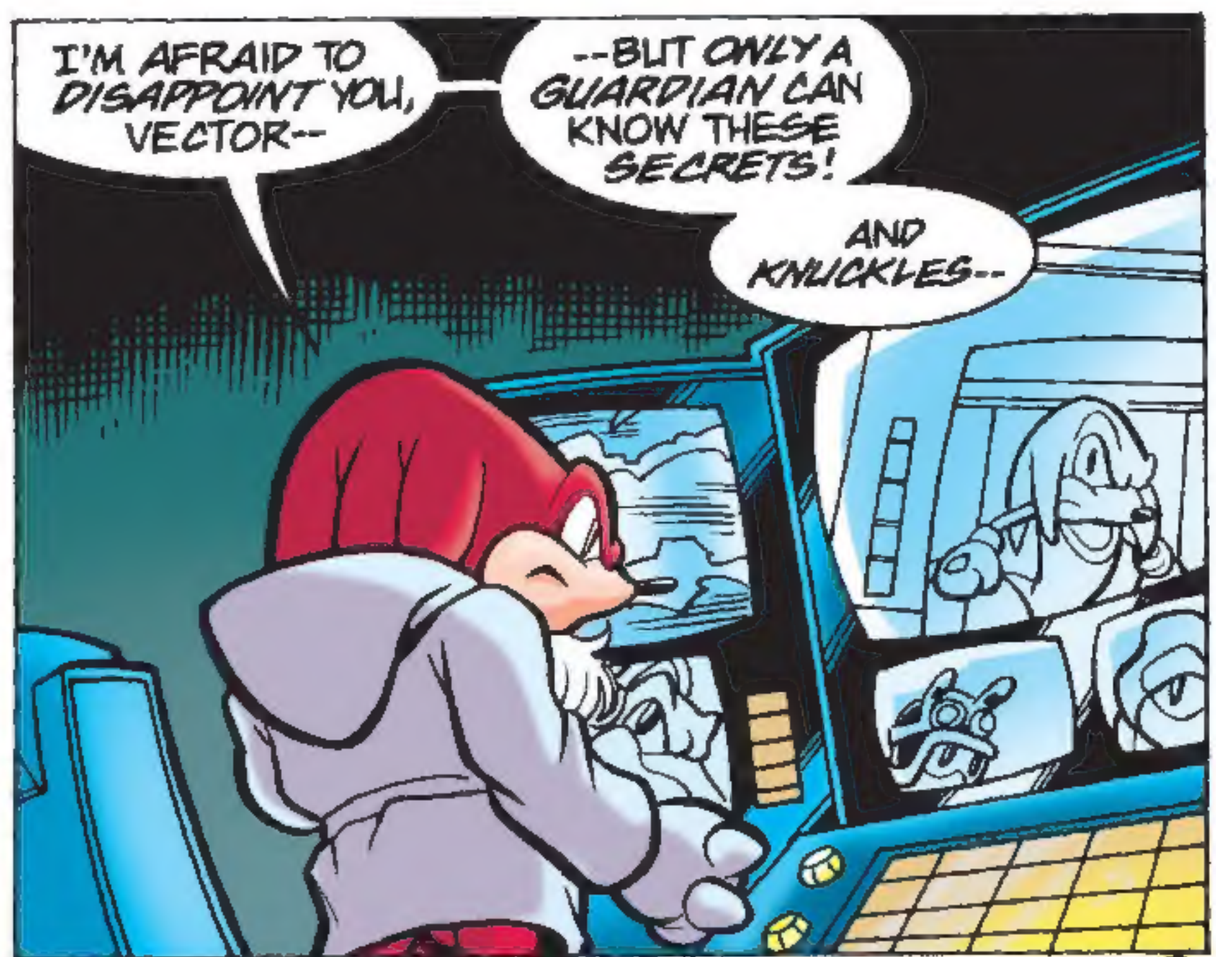


TIME TO LEAVE, GENTLEMEN!
OTHERWISE, WE RUN THE RISK OVERSTAYING OUR WELCOME!

YOU LEAD THE CHAOTIX OUT OF HERE, ARCHY!
I GOT ME A FIRST-CLASS JERK TO TRACK DOWN!

DON'T GO AWAY MAD, CLYDE! IN FACT--
DON'T GO AWAY!
YOU'VE A LOT OF QUESTIONS TO ANSWER!


"THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!"
FIRST, NO POWER, NOW-- OVERLOAD!
CAN SOMEBODY PLEASE TELL US WHAT'S GOING DOWN?


I'M AFRAID TO DISAPPOINT YOU, VECTOR--
--BUT ONLY A GUARDIAN CAN KNOW THESE SECRETS!
AND KNUCKLES--

"--STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE HE'S READY!"

UNTIL NEXT TIME, HAHAHAHAHA

OH, BOY, THIS'LL BE A GAS--

--TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE--

ALPHA CHUTES

PRRRRUUUMMBBLLE

SO MUCH FOR THAT!

THIS PLACE AIN'T GOING TO PIECES BECAUSE THEY BUILT IT CHEESY!

INCREDIBLE!

TO THINK THEY WOULD WASTE A DUMP LIKE THIS!

NO SIGN OF ANYONE!

THE DARK LEGION MUST'VE GOTTEN OUT ALREADY!

HOPE THE GUYS MADE IT THROUGH OKAY!

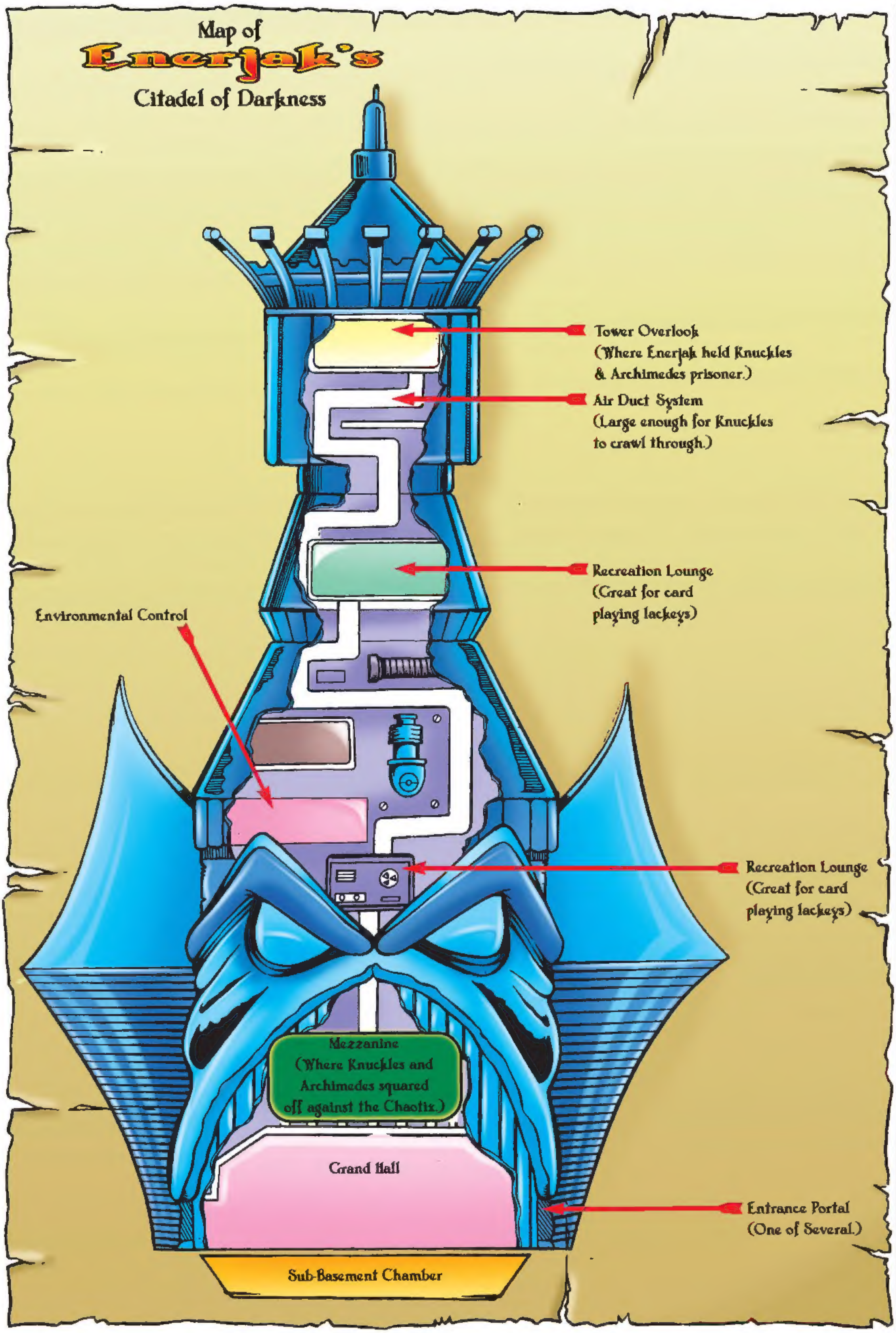
KNUCKLES!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SO HAPPY TO SEE YOUR UGLY MUG!

YOU SHOULD TALK!

WHERE'S KRAGOK-- AND THE DARK LEGION?!

LOOK FOR *KNUCKLES* TO RETURN IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE IN *KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL.2!* COMING SOON!


Map of
Enerjak's
Citadel of Darkness
Tower Overlook
(Where Enerjak held Knuckles
& Archimedes prisoner.)
Air Duct System
(Large enough for Knuckles
to crawl through.)
Recreation Lounge
(Great for card
playing lackeys)
Environmental Control
Recreation Lounge
(Great for card
playing lackeys)
Mezzanine
(Where Knuckles and
Archimedes squared
off against the Chaotix.)
Grand Hall
Entrance Portal
(One of Several.)
Sub-Basement Chamber